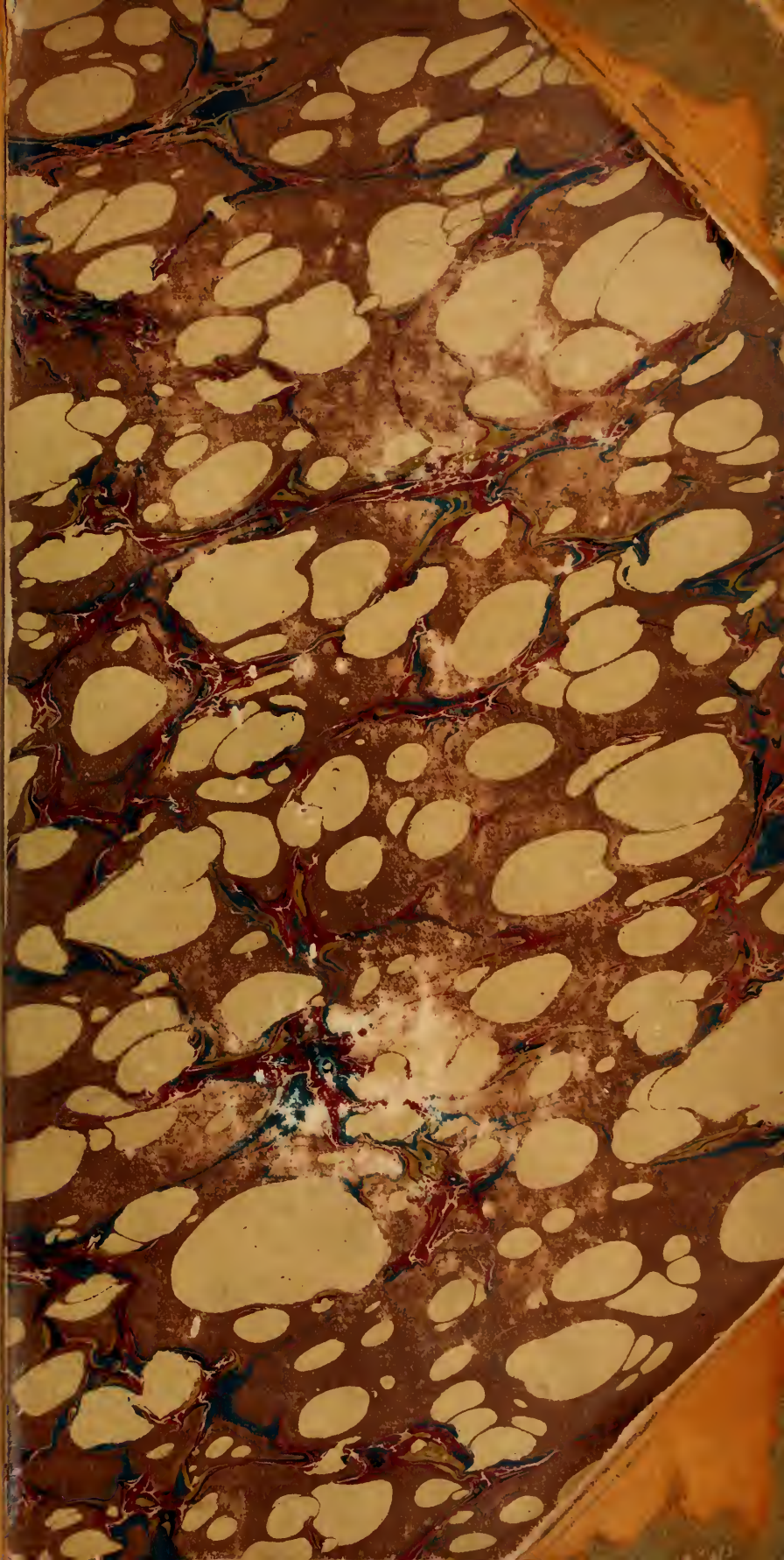


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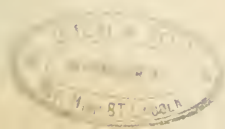


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WROTTESELEY OF WROTTESELEY.



HISTORY OF THE FAMILY
OF
WROTTESLEY OF WROTTESLEY,
CO. STAFFORD.

BY
MAJOR-GEN. THE HONBLE. GEORGE WROTTESLEY.

Supplement to "The Genealogist."

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An archæologist who sits down to write a history of the Wrottesley family starts with unusual advantages—a distinctive name borne by no other family, and which has been taken from a manor possessed by them for more than 700 years—complete series of family deeds and other muniments extending over the same period, and last, but not least, a tenure under a religious house, of which the early charters enable him to bridge over that obscure period for local history which intervenes between the Norman Conquest and the middle of the twelfth century.

From such materials as these any writer who has the necessary archæological training could compose a very full and complete family history, but there its usefulness would stop. Genealogy by itself is a barren study, if divorced from its moral and historical uses, and it is only by researches amongst the Public Records that an author can lift a family history above a dry genealogical chronicle, or throw any light upon the laws and customs of the past. Even the dry details of ancient lawsuits have their uses, for the judicial records contain the germ of our modern laws, and it is only through the public employments and public services of former days that we can rescue worthy actions from oblivion, or call back to the fancy the pomp and chivalry of days gone by.

Wrottesley is an ancient manor and township of the Parish of Tettenhall, in the County of Stafford, and contains about 1600 acres of land. Its etymology is purely Saxon, the name signifying the territory of Wrote, the original Saxon proprietor. The same name occurs in the nomenclature of many other places such as Wrotham and Wroxeter, formerly written Wrotcestre, and is identical with the modern surnames, Wrote, Wrothe, Grote, and the low German or Dutch Groot and Wroot. The termination, ley, lea, or leag, latinized as lega, signifies a territory or domain, and is nearly equivalent to the Norman manor.¹

The earliest mention of Wrottesley occurs in the Harleian Charter, 83, A. 2. This is an original Saxon document, the will of Wulfgate, by which he makes bequests to his wife and daughters and to St. Mary of Worcester. The testator, is, perhaps, the Wulfgate, son of Ufa, who gave Wicksford to the monks of Evesham in 973. The Chronicle of Evesham describes Ufa as “potens homo et vicecomes super Warwykescira.” From the bequests made to St. Mary of Worcester, it is probable that this

¹ *Ex infor.* Sir Frederick Madden, late Keeper of the MSS. at the British Museum.

curious document came originally from that monastery, for the Harleian Charters contain other deeds which evidently emanated from the same source. In this will, Wrottesley is written Wrotteslea.

After the Norman Conquest, Wrottesley formed one of the numerous lordships bestowed by the Conqueror on Robert de Stafford, the founder of the great house of Stafford, Dukes of Buckingham.

The Domesday Survey of A.D. 1085-86 gives the following account of it under the heading of "*Terra Roberti de Stadford.*" In Saisdone Hundred. *Ipsē R. tenet in Wrotlei ij hidas et Glodoen de co. Hunta tenuit et liber homo fuit. Terra est ij caricate, in dominico est una, et j villanus et j bordarius. Silva dimidia leuva longa et ij quarentena lata. Valet iiij.*

This value, 4s., for a manor of two hides is abnormally low, being equal in fact, only to the assessment for the Danegelt which was at the rate of 2s. a hide; but Staffordshire, at this date, had not recovered from the devastation wrought in it by the Conqueror after the insurrection of 1069. Many of the manors in Staffordshire are returned by the Commissioners of 1085 as entirely waste.

Fourteen years, however, before the Domesday Survey, Wrottesley had passed into the possession of the monks of Evesham by a grant of Robert de Stafford, of which the following is an old translation, which exists in the College of Arms and is supposed to have been made by Cooke, Clarence King of Arms, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The Latin original has been lost.¹

" + In the yere from the incarnation of our lord MLXXII in the seventh yere of the raigne of William King of the Englishmen, I Rodbert de Stadfort having a care over my soule and also for the soule of my foresaid lord King William and also for my wife and my parents, have given certen land Wrotteslea by name to the holy monastery of Eovesham by the lycens and consent of the same my lord William into the hand of the lord Agelwius Abbot, my faithful frend, also I have given the foresaid land with woods and medowes and pastures which to it of right belonge so that the church for ever shall it possess and that none my adversary shall presume to detract from it or take awaie anything, and if it so be that anie my enemy shall presume to violate these my almes which I have geven to God for the remission of my sins, and the health of my soule, be he alienated from the inheritance of God, and damned amongst the infernal ghosts. Amen.

"This land Worteslea hath 2 hydes bounded with these meeres &c. in Saxon.

¹ MS. L. 17, College of Arms.

"These things done as is aforesaid, that is to wit, in MLXXII yeare of the incarnation of our lord These + witnesses in word agreing whose names appear underwritten + I Robert delivered this my charter of gift under the seale of the holy Crosse and in geving of it I there layd it upon the holy aultar + I, Urse a Viscount was there a witness + I, Osborne the son of Richard likewise + I, Agelwinus Viscount + I, Turkil the sonne of Agelwinus + I, Ketelbearne his brother + I, Aluricus the Kings Knight + I Walterius + I, Kynewardus de lauro + I, Harle-baldus + I, Robert Knight + I, Gosbertus + I, Gilebertus + I, Hugh, + I Ludicail presbyter + I, Richard + I, Edwyne Alfrede + I Agelricus + I, Alfurnius Grithman + I, Osgodus + I, Sweine + I Leofricus + I, Godricus + I, Thureburnus + I, Agelwius + I, Collingus + I, Agelricus + I Edwyne his brother."

This deed is printed in vol. ii of Staffordshire Collections, p. 178, with notes added to it by Eyton. He calls it "a priceless document, which in turn fortifies history and helps chronology, for it passed within two years of the fall of Earl E'lwyn and the final settlement of Mercia."

The first witness is Urso d'Abetot, the Sheriff of Worcestershire. He was still Sheriff at the date of Domesday.

The next witness is Osbern, son of Richard Scrupe, a Worcestershire Baron, and Lord of Richard's Castle.

Agelwinus Vicecomes was Alwin, the Sheriff of Warwickshire, who had been Sheriff of the same county in the time of Edward the Confessor. This deed shews him still holding office under the Conqueror.

Turchil filius Agelwini, was the son of the last witness. In Domesday he appears as Turquil de Warwic, and the owner of large estates in Warwickshire.

Ketelbearne, his brother, the next witness, was no doubt identical with Chetelbert, who had held the Warwickshire Manor of Redeford in the fief of Turchil de Warwic. He had sold it with the King's license to one Ermenfred before the date of Domesday, and the latter held it in 1086 in capite of the king.

Aluric, the King's Thane, was lord of Bickford and Stramshall and other estates in Staffordshire, some of which he held under Robert de Stafford.

Walter was probably Walter de Somerville, who held several manors under Robert de Stafford.

Kyneward de Lauro, held half a hide in Laure under the Bishop of Worcester at the date of Domesday, and the Survey names him as an extensive landowner in Worcestershire in the time of Edward the Confessor, during which he had been Sheriff of the County. We shall meet with him again at the date of the process between Wulstan, the Bishop of Worcester, and Walter, the Abbot of Evesham, in 1085.

The names of the other witnesses can mostly be found amongst the tenants of Worcestershire and Staffordshire in the Domesday Survey—but they call for no remark.

Sixteen years subsequent to this date, Robert de Stafford, being then on his death-bed and having assumed the habit of a monk of Evesham, repeated his grant of Wrottesley, adding to it the manor of Levington or Loynton in Staffordshire. An ancient copy of this deed existed at Wrottesley,¹ and it will be seen that the terms of it are so nearly identical with those of the grant of 1072, that it would be possible, by means of it, to restore the original Latin text of the earlier deed. The copy of the deed of A.D. 1088, at Wrottesley, likewise contained the boundaries of the manor written in Latin, which were omitted by the transcriber of the deed of 1072.

“Anno ab incarnatione M° LXXXVIIJ° ego Robertus de Stafford providens anime mee, necnon et pro animâ domini mei Willielmi magni Regis Anglorum, necminus et pro conjuge mea et filio meo Nicholao, quandam terram que vocatur Wroteslea et Levuntona dedi in Sancto monasterio Eveshamensi in manu dompni Walteri fidelis amici mei, Dedi etiam prefatam terram cum silvis et pratis et pascuis que ad eam jure pertinent, ita ut ecclesia semper possideat eam libere in elemosinam ut victum fratrum et ut nullus adversarius ab ea auferre presumat. Quod si aliquis inimicus hanc meam elemosinam quam pro remissione peccatorum meorum et pro salute anime mee deo contuli, molare presumpserit, ab hereditate dei alienatus, et inferne dampnatus sit. Anno supradicto dedi etiam corpus meum post mortem eidem Sancto monasterio, et conjux mea scilicet suum dedit, et Nicholaus filius meus concessit suum et omnes mei barones scilicet se dederunt et sacramento confirmaverunt quod hoc firmiter tenerent; has donationes et conventiones feci consilio et assensu et testimonio Petri Cestrei Episcopi qui mihi hoc pro penitentiâ injunxit, et omnes destructores harum donationum perpetuo anathemati dampnavit, Ego Robertus, monachus factus in infirmitate mea in eodem monasterio hanc donationem propria manu signo crucis confirmavi, + Ego Nicholaus filius eorum confirmavi signo + Ego Warinus Malecorne concessi + Ego Brien concessi + Ego Carnegode concessi.

“Hec terra Wroteslea habet duas hidas hiis terminis circumcincta est Sprynewall in Smeleheth, of Smeleheth in Dersprynge, of Dersprynth in Caldewell, of Caldewell in Michelmore, of Michelmore in Hyndewell, of Hyndewell in Cranemore, of Cranmore in redewythi, of redewythi in le More, of le More in

¹ This deed formed one of the transcripts of five deeds, written on a small roll of parchment in a hand of the fifteenth century, formerly preserved at Wrottesley. They appear to have been obtained at the date of the dispute relative to the tenure under which the manor was held, which will be described later on. They emanated without doubt from the muniment room of Evesham Abbey.

Litleleie, of Litley in Wulvey, of Wolsey (*sic*) in Stanewell, of Stanywall in Edulfeswey, of Edulfeswey in Hawkewell, of Hawkewell in Cumbiwell, of Cumbewell in Whytesyche, of Whytesyche in Michelee, of Mychelce este into Spryntwall et nota ubi ista prepositio of dicitur nichill aliud significatur nisi fro, as fro Sprynewall to Smeleheth, fro Derslenthe to Calde-welle et sic de aliis."

This deed has been likewise printed in the Staffordshire Collections. Eyton in his notes upon it suggests that Robert de Stafford, having neglected to fulfil his grant of A.D. 1072, and having been reproved in due course by Peter, the Bishop of Chester for his impiety, repents on his death-bed, and now adds Levinton (Loynton) to his previous grant of Wrottesley. Walter, the existing Abbot of Evesham, had succeeded to Agelwine in 1077, and occurs in office in 1086 and 1102. According to Florence of Worcester, he died on the 20th January, 1104. These dates are of importance, as it will be shewn later on that his brother Ralph was the original ancestor of the Wrottesley family.

Warine, the first witness, was the Domesday tenant of Robert de Stafford at Compton in Warwickshire, and at Blymhill and other places in Staffordshire. Brien, the second witness, was the ancestor of the family of de Standon, the most important of the tenants of the Barony of Stafford, holding seven knights' fees of Robert de Stafford in Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, and Warwickshire.

The addendum to this deed, which gives the boundaries of Wrottesley in old English, is well worthy the attention of those antiquaries who are interested in the question of the Domesday hyde. Here we find a manor of two hydes defined by bounds and metes which enclose an area of 1,600 acres, for many of these local names still exist. It seems clear that at this date the hyde had become simply a term of assessment and valuation, and had no reference to any definite area or number of acres.

As may be anticipated from the date of this deed, Domesday shews both Wrottesley and Loynton unaffected by any grant in frankalmoign. The Domesday account of Wrottesley has been given already—that of Loynton is as follows:—

"Ipse Robertus [de Stadford] tenet in Levintone dimidiam hidam et Gislebertus de eo. Ailric et Ormar tenuerunt et liberi fuerunt. Terra est 1 caruca. Vasta est, Valet 2 solidos."

Gilbert, the Domesday tenant of Robert de Stafford, held under him Tean and other manors in Staffordshire and Oxfordshire, but neither he nor any of his descendants had afterwards any interest in Loynton. It was always an object with a monastic body to divest their lands from a tenure by knight's service, for they derived little or no

benefit from lands in which military tenants were enfeoffed. In 1316, when the question of the tenure of Loynton came under consideration, Sir William de Wrottesley obtained from John, then Abbot of Evesham, a certified copy or *Inspecimus* of the deed which follows:—

“Universis presentes literas inspecturis, Johannes permissione divina Abbas Eveshamie, salutem in domino sempiternam. Noverit universitas vestra quod nos literam subscriptam in thesauraria nostra Eveshamense penes nos habemus cirographam.

“Hec est conventio facta inter Reginaldum Abbatem de Evesham et Conventum ejusdem ecclesie, et inter Robertum Dunekan, quod ipse dominus Reginaldus Abbas et conventus concedunt huic Roberto quendam terram Livintunam nomine, reddendo inde unam marcam argenti per singulos annos ad festivitatem Sancti Egwini quamdiu Robertus vixerit et non hereditarie. His testibus Willelmo de Sevecurdia, Pagano filio Ranulfi, Willelmo dapifero, Constantino.

“Sine dubio de verbo ad verbum talis est litera que manet penes nos. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus fecimus apponi. Datum apud Evesham sexto decimo Kalend: maii anno regni Regis Edwardi filii Regis Edwardi nono.”¹

This deed shows clearly there was no mesne tenure at Loynton when the Abbot Reginald granted it to Robert Dunkan for his life. Reginald was elected Abbot in 1130 and died in 1149. A deed which follows will shew that Clodoan's mesne tenure at Wrottesley had likewise been extinguished before the year 1164, which is the probable date of the feoffment of the present family at Wrottesley. By an original deed which was preserved at Wrottesley until the late fire, Adam, the Abbot of Evesham, granted Wrottesley and Loynton in fee and inheritance to Simon, son of William de Coctune, and his heirs, the said Simon rendering two marks annually in lieu of all services, excepting the service of the King, and saving the tenure of William de Livingston, so that the said William should perform to Simon the service which he formerly owed to the Abbot and Convent; for which concession the said Simon released to the Abbot and Convent all claim to Morton and lands in Norton and Hampton, and a messuage in Evesham. The original deed is as follows:—

“Sciant presentes 7 futuri, quod ego, A Abbas 7 Conventus Eveshamensis ecclesie, concessimus in feodum et hereditatem Simoni filio Willelmi de Coctuna 7 heredibus suis Wrotteslegiam et Livintunam pro duabis marcis ut eas teneat reddendo inde pro

¹ Original deed formerly at Wrottesley

omnibus servitiis singulis annis unam marcham in Annunciatione beate Marie 7 aliam in Nativitate beate Marie liberas 7 quietas ab omni servitio salvo servitio Regis et salva ipsi Willelmo de Livintuna tenuria sua, ita quidem ut Simoni faciat servitium quod consuevit facere Abbati 7 Ecclesie. Pro hac concessione quam fecimus ei, ipse Simon clamavit quietam omnem querelam 7 calupniam de se 7 de omnibus heredibus suis in perpetuum de Mortuna 7 de terra de Nortuna 7 de terra de Hantum 7 de illo maisiagio de Evesham 7 quod defendet easdem terras contra omnes calupniatores. Qui si ab hac defensione quocumque modo defecerit, recipiat Abbas 7 ecclesia terras predictas liberas 7 teneat eas semper absque omni reclamacione Simonis 7 omnium suorum. Si post obitum ipsius Simonis mota fuerit querela de supradictis terris adversus ecclesiam, heredes ipsius Simonis stabunt in defensione ista pro ecclesia in loco patris sui et si defecerint recipiat ecclesia terras suas liberas 7 quietas ab omni calupnia ipsorum. His testibus Philippo dapifero, Pagano clerico, Willelmo de Tiwe, Hingeran de Humet, Jordano fratre suo, Barthramo de Verdun, Alexandro de Claverlega, Rodberto Pincerna, Waltero Bret, Gwiot de Verdun, Radulpho de Meilnel, Roelend de Verdun."

The date of this deed can be determined within very narrow limits, for Adam became Abbot of Evesham in 1160, and Simon is shewn to be lord of Wrottesley seven years afterwards by an entry in the Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 13 Hen. II. Eyton fixes the date even more precisely, for, arguing from the fact that most of the witnesses were members of the household of Richard de Humet, the Hereditary Constable of Normandy, he names the years 1163-64, as the probable date of it. The Constable was in England with the King from January 1163 to March 1164, when he was despatched on urgent business to France.

Eyton's notes will be found in vol. ii, p. 188 of the Staffordshire Collections, but since he wrote them in 1881, much additional matter has been discovered concerning the family of Wrottesley, the most important fact being, that they were originally named "de Verdun." This accounts for the presence of all the witnesses of that name, as well as of the household of the Constable—for Bertram de Verdun, the head of the house of Verdun, held his lands in Normandy under the Constable, and had been brought up in his household. In his foundation deed of Croxden Abbey, he calls Richard de Humet "*dominum meum, qui me nutrit.*"¹ It will be

¹ For an account of the family of de Humet, or de Hommet, see the notes in Stapleton's Norman Rolls. They derived their name from Le Hommet, a castle in the Diocese of Coutance. Richard de Humet, the Constable, married the daughter and heir of Jordan de Sai (near Argentein). Jordan de Sai and Lucy his wife founded the Monastery of Aunay about 1130, and Bertram de Verdun when he founded the monastery of Croxden in Staffordshire made it subject to Aunay.

shewn later on, that Simon the grantee in this deed was probably in the household of Bertram de Verdun, his kinsman.

As this Simon is the undoubted progenitor of the present family of Wrottesley, it is now advisable to go back in order to give some account of the origin of the family of de Cocton (Coughton) and of their history up to the date of the Abbot's deed of gift.

By a deed in the Evesham Chartulary, which is attested by the same witnesses as the feoffment of Simon at Wrottesley, and doubtless executed at the same time, Ralph the son of William de Coctone, released to the Abbot Adam and Convent of Evesham all his claim to Morton, and lands in Norton and Hampton, and a messuage in Evesham, for which release the Abbot gave him the mill of Samburne.

It will be seen that the lands and tenements here specified were the same which Simon quit-claimed to the Abbot in the previous deed; the two brothers having apparently an equal claim upon them. Samburne was a large manor adjoining Coughton which belonged to the Abbey of Evesham; the manorial mill was a valuable acquisition, as it had the monopoly of the grinding of all corn produced by the tenants of the manor.

This Ralph de Coctone was an elder brother of Simon, and must have been the head of his house in A.D. 1166, when he was returned in the *Liber Niger* of the Exchequer as holding a knight's fee of the Abbot of Evesham. It will now be shewn that this Ralph was the lineal descendant of a former Ralph, the Domesday tenant of the Abbot at Kine-warton and Morton, and the brother of Walter the first Norman Abbot of the house.

Agelwine, the last of the Saxon Abbots of Evesham, died in 1077, and was succeeded by Walter, a monk of Cerisy in Normandy and Chaplain of Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury. The Evesham Chronicle informs us that, being a young man, at the date of his accession, and less prudent in worldly matters than was necessary (*quam oportuit*), he refused to accept the homage of many worthy tenants of the monastery, and conferred their lands upon his own relations, and it adds that he enfeoffed nearly all the military tenants of the Abbey. This is the account of Thomas of Marlborough, the writer of the Chronicle, who was Prior of the house in the reign of King John. His history, whilst it ascribes with reason the loss of large revenues to the nepotism of the early Norman Abbots, overlooks the political causes which affected at this period the tenures of monastic bodies. Under the government of the Saxon Kings the monasteries had amassed extensive possessions which were held to be free from all secular

obligations. With the view of increasing the military strength of the kingdom, the Conqueror subjected a portion of the ecclesiastical revenues to the Feudal Law, and the Bishops and Abbots were now compelled to furnish the King, during war, with the service of a certain number of knights, proportioned to the extent of property possessed by each See or Abbey. It is not surprising, therefore, that we should find the kinsmen of the first Norman Abbot holding considerable possessions under the monastery. The Evesham Chartulary contains the following list of the feoffments made by the Abbot Walter to his brother Ralph:—

“Radulphus frater Abbatis Walteri habet in Withelega iij hidas de dominico. In Kinewarton iij hidas de dominico. In Stoke ij hidas de dominico. In Litelton ij hidas et dimidiam de dominico. In Bretferton iij hidas et i virgatam dono Walteri Abbatis contradicente capitulo.¹

These places are Weethly and Kinwarton in Warwickshire, Stoke in Gloucestershire, and Littleton and Bretforton in Worcestershire.

The list of tenures from which the above is taken contains the grants made by the Abbots Walter,² Robert, and Maurice, but none of later date, and it appears to have been compiled for the Abbot Reginald who was elected in 1130. In the same list the names occur of Simon le Despencer, Fulk Paganel and William Silvanus, all of whom appear on the Pipe Roll of 30 Hen. I.

Another tenure Roll in the same Chartulary of later date contains the following:—

“Simon filius Ranulfi de Cocton tenet in Litelton ii hidas et dimidiam, et in Witheleia i hidam et dimidiam et in Bretferton iij hidas et j virgatam et debet i militem.

Ranulfus tenet in Kinewarton iij hidas et in Witheleia i hidam et dimidiam et in Stoke ii hidas et dimidiam et debet i militem.³

On comparing these two tenures with that of Ralph, the

¹ Harleian MS., 3763, fol. 59.

² The Abbot Walter died on the 20th January, 1104, according to the historian Florence of Worcester.

The Evesham Chronicle is not to be relied on for the dates of the early Norman Abbots. It fixes the year 1087 as the date of Walter's death, and the latter is a witness of the grant of Henry I. to the Monastery of Bath dated 1102. It names the year 1096 as the date of the Abbot Robert's death, the latter being a party to a deed in the Evesham Chartulary dated 1121. It fixes the death of Maurice and the accession of Reginald as taking place in the year 1122 whereas a deed in the Chartulary is dated “1130, in the first year of Reginald Abbot.” The probable dates of the succession of the first four Norman Abbots are as follows—

The Abbot Walter, elected 1077, died 1104.

The Abbot Robert, elected 1104, died 1122.

The Abbot Maurice, elected 1122, died 1130.

The Abbot Reginald, elected 1130, died 1149.

³ Harl. : M.S. 3,763, fol. 66.

Abbot's brother, it will be seen that they are exactly identical. The Liber Niger of the Exchequer, the well-known Feodary of A.D. 1166, returns these tenures as follows, under the heading of:—

“Servitium militum de Abbatia de Evesham.”

“Ranulfus de Coctona facit plenum servitium unius militis in equis et armis, et Abbas invenit ei expensas quamdiu fuerit in servitio Regis.

“Ranulfus de Kinewarton, similiter.”

Here follows three other tenures, after which the Record states:—

“Isti predicti sunt de veteri fefamento.”

The fees of old feoffment were those which were in existence before the death of Henry I.

Having thus shewn that the fee of Ralph, the Abbot's brother, had been divided in equal proportions between the two families of Cocton and Kinewarton before the year 1166, I now propose to shew that the tenure of the Coctons in Littleton was derived from a gift of the Abbot Walter, and that Ralph the Abbot's brother was known as Ralph de Cocton.

The Evesham Chartulary at fol. 72 states:—

“In Litelton Randulfus tenet ij hidas et dimidiam et facit servitium Regis pro dimidia hida et geldat pro dimidia et hoc fecit Walterus Abbas injuste.

“Tota decima *Randulfi de Coctona* tam de dominico quam de hominibus suis in blado, in lino, in agnis et in omnibus domini est.”

The date of this tenure Roll is temp. Hen. II, and the Ralph named in it is the same as the Ralph de Cocton of the Liber Niger. The latter is shewn by the Pipe Rolls to be alive as late as 1184. The Ralph de Cocton therefore of the following deed must have been of earlier date, and it will be shewn that he must be identical with Ralph the Abbot's brother.

“Hec est conventio inter dominum Abbatem Robertum et Conventum Sancte Marie de Evesham, et Radulphum Pincerna de terra de Wicklakesford quod ipse Radulphus Pincerna tenebit illam terram in feudi firma pro lx solidis per singulis annis, pro hac dimissione primum reddit vadimonia que habuit ecclesie pro xx libris, etc. Ista conventio facta est anno ab incarnatione domini M^o. C^o xxi^o. Hiis testibus Geroldo vicecomite, Ranulfo clerico, Willelmo capellano Willelmo de Sevecurda, Ranulfo de Coctona, Rogero de Lenz, Aluredo dapifero, Hugone

de Northona, Roberto et Willelmo filiis Willelmi, Constantino, Alano, Roberto de Ceraso, Rogero Aquillun, Luca filio ejus, Willelmo de Havilt, Waltero de Valle, Radulfo de Ludinton, Ranulfo de Warlo, Waltero Levelancea, Ricardo dispensatore.”¹

Domesday gives the following description of the manors granted to Ralph, the Abbot's brother, under the heading of:—

“*Terra ecclesie de Evesham*” (in Warwickshire).

“*Ipsa ecclesia tenet in Chenevertone iij hidas et Rannulfus tenet de Abbate. Terra est v carrucate, In dominico est una, et iij servi et iij villani, et ij bordarii, cum una carucata. Ibi molendinum de iii solidis, pratum i quarentena longa, et xii pertica lata. Valuit xl solidos, et post v solidos, modo xx solidos.*”

Under Worcestershire, we find the following:—

“*Ipsa Ecclesia tenet Mortune. Ibi fuerunt v hide tempore Regis Edwardi, sed ex eis magna pars prestita fuit foris. In dominico est una carucata et vii villani et ii bovarii cum iiii carucatis. Ibi xv acre parce, Silva iii quarentena longa et una quarentena lata. Valuit et valet xxx solidos. Rannulfus tenet de Abbate.*”

At Littleton, Weethly and Bretforton, no tenants are named. The Gloucestershire Domesday states that the Abbot had granted Stoke and Hedecote to two of his knights, but does not give their names.

Besides the grants made to Ralph, the Evesham Chartulary specifies many other manors which were given away by the Abbot Walter to his relations; but the writer omits to mention that in the case of Kinewarton and many other manors, the tenants dispossessed to make room for the Abbot's feoffees, had been originally tenants of the Monastery of St. Mary of Worcester, and that the manors had been recovered from that Monastery after a prolonged lawsuit, carried on against a rival house by the Abbot Walter.

Heming, the monk of Worcester, gives the following account of the “*magna contentio*,” as he styles it, between the Bishop Wulstan, the patron of St. Mary of Worcester, and the monks of Evesham.

Agelwius the last of the Saxon Abbots of Evesham, rose into considerable note during the early part of the Conqueror's

¹ Harl. M.S. 3,763, fol. 91. The Ralph Pincerna, or Boteler, of this deed was the founder of the Priory of Alcester. The family derived their name from their office of Hereditary Butlers to the Earls of Mellent. Their principal seat was at Oversley, which adjoins Coughton in Warwickshire. William de Sevecurde was of Seacourt, county Berks, and had been enfeoffed at Weston, in Gloucestershire, by the Abbot Robert. He also held two knights' fees under the Abbot of Abingdon.

reign. As Justiciary he governed all the Midland Counties, and his influence, learning and eloquence were such that even the Normans feared him (*ab ipsis Francigenis timebatur*). Wulstan, the Bishop, on the other hand, a religious man, intent on the service of the Lord, and who never meddled in secular matters, was no match for the Abbot in worldly wisdom, and thus many of the tenants of the Bishop, under various pretences, placed themselves and their lands under the Abbot of Evesham, seeking his protection against the violence and rapacity of the Normans. From this cause arose many altercations between him and the Bishop, but, as the historian remarks, "the children of this world being wiser in their generation than the children of light," the holy Bishop was seduced by the astuteness of the Abbot, who at one time proffering service for the lands, at another time threatening the Bishop with the loss of more lands, protracted the controversy during the remainder of his life, and died at length of an attack of gout, unreconciled with his Bishop, and without absolution from him. And the venerable Bishop, out of compassion for him, having ordered prayers to be said for the good of his soul, was forthwith seized with the same disorder, and to such an extent that the doctors not being able to afford him any relief, had ceased to attempt the cure out of despair. Whereupon it was revealed to the Bishop one night whilst engaged in prayer, that he had incurred this infirmity because he had ordered special prayers to be made for the soul of the Abbot, and that if he wished to be cured he must countermand the prayers; after which the prayers for the Abbot having been discontinued, the Bishop became again restored to health within a few days; whence we may gather, the historian remarks, "how great is the damnation incurred by those who deprive the church of their lands, when even the prayers to exorcise the wrongdoers are distasteful to heaven."¹

Hemingus adds that after Agelwius had been succeeded by the Abbot Walter, Odo, the Bishop of Bayeux, entreated his brother, the King, to give him the lands in dispute between the two houses, and his request having been granted, the Bishop afterwards obtained but little service from them, and those who had originally deprived his monastery² of them, obtained nothing at all, except the sin and iniquity of the transaction. Here, however, Hemingus makes a mistake, for the Evesham Chartulary contains a writ of Odo, the Bishop of Bayeux, addressed to the Bishop Wulstan, and to Urso, Durand, and Walter, the Sheriffs of Worcester, Gloucester, and

¹ Chartulary of St. Mary of Worcester, printed by Hearne.

² The Monastery of St. Mary of Worcester.

Warwickshire, commanding them to restore to Walter, the Abbot of Evesham, those lands for which the said Walter had sued at Gildeneburgh before seven shires, viz. : Weston, Swella, Beningwurth, Bivinton, Wicklakesford, Oleburgh, Kine-warton, Hildeburwick, and Ragley. This writ must have been anterior to the year 1081, for at that date Odo had fallen into disgrace and was thrown into prison from which he was not released till the following reign. Ralph, the Abbot's brother, was therefore enfeoffed at Kinewarton between the years 1078 and 1085.

Shortly after this date, a new element of discord arose between the Monastery and the Bishop upon the question of the suit and service owing to the Bishop's Hundred of Oswaldslawe, and the proceedings upon this occasion give us another glimpse of Ralph, the Abbot's brother. After some preliminary pleadings before Godfrey, Bishop of Coutances, who had succeeded Odo as Justiciary of England, the cause was finally decided before the Domesday Commissioners, Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln, Walter Giffard, Henry de Ferrers, and Adam, brother of Eudo, the King's Dapifer. "*Qui ad inquirendas et describendas possessiones et consuetudines, tam Regis quam Principum suorum, in hac provincia, et in pluribus aliis, ab ipso Rege destinati sunt, eo tempore, quo totam Angliam idem Rex describi fecit.*" This date would be between the years 1081 and 1086.

Hemingus gives an interesting account of the process upon this occasion. No means were spared to excite the feelings on either side, and his narrative leaves a vivid impression of the turbulent proceedings of a Court of Law at this period. The Abbot Walter brought with him the sacred relics of his monastery, including the body of St. Egwin, the founder of the house. The monks of Worcester on the other hand were supported by a large body of their tenants and partisans who are all described as ready to offer wager of battle in defence of their rights against Ralph, the brother of the Abbot Walter. The account of the monk of Worcester, however, is best given in his own words, which are a model of force and terseness:—

"Venit dies statuta, venit Episcopus Wulstanus et Abbas Walterus, et ex precepto Gosfridi Episcopi affuerunt barones, qui interfuerunt priori placito et iudicio. Attulit Abbas reliquias, scilicet corpus Sancti Ecgwini. Ibi affuerunt ex parte Episcopi probabiles persone, parate facere predictum sacramentum.¹ Quarum unus fuit Edricus qui fuit tempore Regis Edwardi, stermannus navis Episcopi, et ductor exercitus ejusdem Episcopi ad servitium Regis; et hic erat homo Rod-

¹ That the Abbot owed suit and service to the Bishop's Hundred.

berti Herefordensis Episcopi ea die qua sacramentum optulit, ut nichil de Episcopo W. tenebat. Affuit etiam Kinewardus, qui fuit vicecomes Wircestrescire, qui hec vidit et hoc testabatur. Affuit etiam Siwardus, dives homo de Scropseyre et Osbernus filius Ricardi, et Turchil de Warewicscyre, et multi alii seniores et nobiles, quorum major pars jam dormiunt. Multi autem adhuc superstites sunt, qui illos audierunt et adhuc multi de tempore Regis Willelmi idem testificantes. Abbas autem videns, sacramentum et probationem totam paratam esse, et nullo modo remanere si vellet recipere, accepto ab amicis consilio, episcopo demisit sacramentum et totam querelam recognovit et omnem rem sicut Episcopus reclamaverat et inde concordiam se facturam cum Episcopo conventionem fecit. Et inde sunt legitimi testes apud nos, milites et homines Sancte Marie et Episcopi qui hoc viderunt et audierunt, parati hoc probare per sacramentum, et bellum contra Ranulfum fratrem ejusdem Walteri Abbatis, quem ibi viderunt, qui cum fratre suo tenebat illud placitum contra Episcopum, si hanc conventionem negare voluerit, factam inter Episcopum et Abbatem."

On the death of the Abbot Walter in 1104, an attempt was made by the monks to recover some of the lands given away by him without the consent of the Chapter, and the suits which arose on this occasion resulted in the transfer of the fee of Ralph to Urso d'Abetot, the hereditary Sheriff of Worcestershire. The writer of the Chartulary,¹ after describing how Urso d'Abetot with the assistance of Odo, the Bishop of Bayeux, had deprived the Abbey of the manor of Bernards Lench, goes on to say:—

"Aliam villam que Chyrchlench vocatur de dominico, Abbas Walterus sibi (*i.e.* to *Urso*) eo tenore concessit, ut eo vivente, prefatam terram pro servitio teneret, et post mortem ejus ad ecclesiam rediret. Post mortem Abbatis Walteri, nondum hic Abbate existente, Henricus Rex servitium Randulphi fratris Abbatis sibi concessit, quod tamen ante mortem suam quia injuste illud invaserat coram multis testibus ecclesie reddidit."

To this date, therefore, may be ascribed the loss of Morton and the lands in Norton and Hampton which are mentioned in the deed of feoffment of Wrottesley. Ralph had in fact been obliged to relinquish some of his manors in order to preserve the remainder. The following account of the two fees of Cocton and Kinewarton in the reign of Edward I., which is taken from the Evesham Chartulary,² shews also that

¹ Cottonian Vespasian B. xxiv., fol. 8.

² Harleian MS. 3763, fol. 168.

he had been forced to transfer Weethly to Urso d'Abetot.¹

"FEODUM. Due hide et dimidia in Luttelton quas Hugo de Norfolk² et Adam de la Lee tenent; una hida et dimidia que Alexandrus de Apetot tenet in Wytheleye, tres hide et una virgata terre in Bretforton, quod vocatur feodum Avenel³ debent unum militem, et Abbas inveniet huic feodo xls. ad sumptus, et non plus, ut patet per cartam que inde factam est, sed Abbas introducet eos in constabilia sumptibus suis.⁴

FEODUM. Tres hide in Kynewarton quas R. de Hengham et elemosinarii de Evesham tenent; una hida et dimidia in Wythele quam Alexandrus d'Apetot tenet, due hide et dimidia in Stoke quas J. de Bissopeston tenet.

Istud feodum debet accipere ab Abbate expensas suas in victualibus tam pro equis quam pro hominibus, a die recessus ab Evesham, usque ponantur in constabilia, et postea pro quadraginta dies sicut Rex dat militibus suis."

This division of Weethly between the two fees when held by the same sub-tenant is noteworthy, and affords additional proof of the descent of the two families of Cocton and Kinewarton from Ralph, the Abbot's brother, for the ancestor of Alexander de Abetot must have been clearly enfeoffed by the owner of the undivided fee."

Nothing has hitherto been said respecting the manor of Cocton, or Coughton, which gave its name to one branch of the descendants of Ralph. Coughton, in Warwickshire, anciently written Coctune, was one of the manors held *in capite* under the king by Turchil de Warwic, and is thus described in the Survey of A.D. 1086:—

"De Turchillo tenet Willelmus in Coctune iiii hidas, Terra est vi carrucate: ibi sunt ii liberi homines et vii bordarii et iiij servi cum iiii carrucatis: ibi molendinum de xxxii denariis; et in Warewic i domus reddit viii denaria, ibi x acre parci: silva vi quarentena longa, et iiii quarentena lata, pascit L porcos: Valuit xl solidos et postea xx solidos, modo L solidos. Untonius (tenuit)."

Turchill's tenant, William, may be either William Buenvasleth (Bonvalet), the tenant *in capite* of Spennall and other

¹ The lands of Urse descended to Walter de Beauchamp, who had married Emmelina his daughter. His son, Rogér, was banished the kingdom by Henry I., having incurred the king's displeasure by killing one of the king's household. (New Peerage, quoting William of Malmesbury.)

² Hugh de Norfolk was tenant by courtesy, having married Joan the heiress of Coughton. He was her second husband.

³ Probably a mistake for "de Verdon." The Avenels held nothing under the monastery of Evesham.

⁴ The meaning of this seems to be that the Abbot paid all expenses till his knight was taken over by the king's officers. The mounted men-at-arms were divided into constabilia.

neighbouring manors, or William Fitz Corbuson of Stodley¹ In the reign of Henry I. it was undoubtedly in the possession of the latter family, for Peter de Stodley, the son of William Fitz Corbuson, gave the church of Cocton to the Priory of Stodley on his foundation of that house.

This manor, so far as regarded its subsequent ownership, followed the same rule which governed the other possessions of Ralph, the Abbot's brother, for in the reign of King John we find it equally divided between the two families of Cocton and Kinewarton. By a fine levied in the first year of King John, Ralph de Kinewarton acknowledged that he had endowed Joan, the wife of his son Robert (then deceased), with two hides of land in Cocton.² Coughton, according to Domesday, was a manor of four hides, and it may therefore be assumed that this manor descended like the others from Ralph, the common progenitor of these two houses.

There is every reason to believe that this Ralph survived the Abbot Maurice, for the Tenure Roll already quoted from the Evesham Chartulary, includes his name, and mentions grants of land made by the Abbots Walter, Robert and Maurice, and as it states amongst other matters that William Silvanus withheld a portion of his service, "*per vim defectu abbatus*," it must either have been written during the interval that elapsed between the death of Maurice and the accession of Reginald, or very shortly after the election of the latter Abbot in 1130.³ We may therefore conclude that the Ralph de Cocton who witnesses the grant of Wicklakesford in fee farm to Ralph Pincerna in 1121, which has been already given, can be no other than Ralph, the Abbot's brother, who having been enfeoffed at Coughton by the family of Corbuson, had taken up his abode there, and had assumed the local name. At the date of the death of the Abbot Maurice, Ralph had been for more than forty years one of the principal tenants of the monastery, and so lengthened a tenure must necessarily bring us near the date of his death. Reginald was elected Abbot in 1130, and the first act recorded of him in the Chronicle of Evesham is his removal of the houses of the knights of Kinewarton and Cocton, "*quibus quasi obsessa fuit abbatia*." At this period, therefore, Ralph must

¹ The reason for supposing that William Bonvalet held Coughton, A.D. 1086, is that Domesday states that a house in Warwick was appurtenant to Coughton, and the same Record shews that William Buenvasleth held a house in Warwick, which is not named anywhere else, and it is expressly stated that the houses in Warwick appurtenant to manors are enumerated under the manors to which they belong. The fee of William Buenvasleth was afterwards merged in the Earldom of Warwick, and the name disappears in later Records.

² Pedes Finium—Warwickshire, 1 John.

³ See note at page 11, respecting the dates of the accession of the first four Abbots after the Conquest.

have been dead, and his fief divided between those two families.

The Evesham Chartularies throw no light upon the precise mode of descent of the Ralph de Cocton and Ralph de Kinewarton of 1166 from Ralph, the Abbot's brother. It is possible that the latter left two daughters between whom his lands were divided, but the partition of an inheritance between two brothers was very frequent for the first century after the Conquest.¹ This was done under a Norman custom known as "*Paragium*," so called because the second son was placed in *pari casu* with the elder. On the Pipe Roll of 31 Henry I (A.D. 1129-30) under Warwickshire,² a William and Robert pay heavy fines to have the lands of their father Ralph. It is difficult not to associate this entry with the succession to the fief of Ralph the Abbot's brother. At this date the monastery was in the King's hands, and the custody of it had been granted to Geoffrey de Clinton, who accounts for its revenues on the Pipe Roll of 31 Hen. I. It will be seen also that this year coincides with the period which has been already set down on independent testimony as the probable date of Ralph's death, and of the interregnum between the death of the Abbot Maurice and the accession of the Abbot Reginald.

The Record on the Warwickshire Pipe Roll of 31 Hen. I is as follows:—

"Willelmus filius Rannulfi reddit compotum de cxiii s. et i dextram, ut habeat terram patris sui. In thesauro xxx s., et debet iiij libras et iii s. et iiij d. et i dextram. Robertus filius Rannulfi reddit compotum de iiij libras pro parte terre patris sui. In thesauro xx s. et debet lx s."

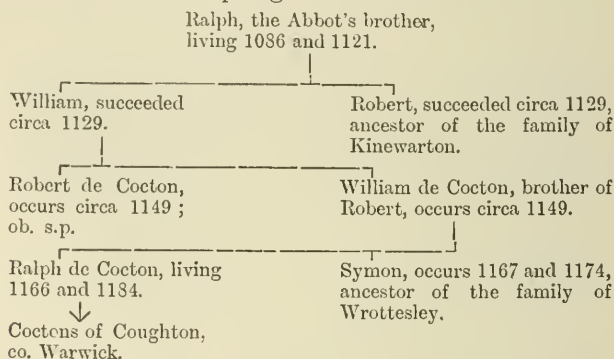
About twenty years after this date a Robert de Cocton and William, his brother, witness a grant made to Bordesley Abbey by Peter de Stodley, the son of William fitz Corbuson. This deed is printed in the *Formulare Anglicanum*, and the original is still preserved in the Public Record Office. It is addressed to John, Bishop of Worcester, who was consecrated in 1151 and died at Rome in 1158. The witnesses to the deed are Geoffrey de Limesi, Robert de Coctuna and William, his

¹ Several instances of this custom can be adduced. Thus, the lands of Siward de Arderne were divided between two sons, Hugh and Henry, who are each returned as holding four knights' fees in the *Liber Niger* of 1166. Orderic Vitalis also mentions that the fee of Beauquenci was divided by the Conqueror between two brothers, Baudrie and Wiger. Whenever the same person held lands both in Normandy and England, it was almost invariably the rule that one son took the Norman fief, and another son the English fief. In this way, the fief of William fitz Osbern was divided between two sons, William and Roger; the fief of Marmion was divided between two brothers, both named Robert; the fief of William Pantolf was divided between two sons, Philip and Robert; and the fief of William de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, between his two sons, William and Reginald. (See Orderic Vitalis and Planché's *Conqueror and his Companions*.)

² Both Coughton and Kinwarton are in Warwickshire.

brother, Geoffrey Corbesun, Roger de Stokes, Osbert the Forester, Benjamin de Beleia, Richard Pincerna, Roberto Franco, Ralph de Boseville, Ediva sponsa mea.

It will be noted that the entry in the Pipe Roll of 1129-30 shews William to be the eldest of the two sons, and I conclude, therefore, that the above deed gives us the names of another generation, and that the pedigree is as follows:—¹



From the William de Cocton of the above pedigree, all obscurity of descent vanishes, for he was clearly the father of the Ralph de Cocton living in 1166, and of Symon the progenitor of the family of Wrottesley.

The history of the Coctons of Coughton has now been brought down to the period when the Abbot Adam enfeoffed Symon, a younger son of the house, in the manors of Wrottesley and Loynton. The Evesham Chronicle notices the grants made on this occasion by the statement that the Abbot Adam gave away Wrottesley and Loynton, and the mill of Samburne in "fee farm" (*in feudi firmâ*), but names no grantees.

In 1167 Alan de Neville was holding Pleas of the Forest in the Midland Counties, and the ordinary result of an Iter of the Forest is shewn by the large number of amercements entered on the Pipe Rolls. On the Staffordshire Roll of this year Simon is returned as having paid a fine of half a mark, on account of his manor of Wrottesley. The exact words of the record are:— "*Wrotteslega Simonis reddit compotum de dimidiâ marcâ. In thesauro liberavit et quieta est.*"² Wrottesley at this date bordered on the Royal Forest of Brewood, and was therefore within the purlieu. Few manors in this situation escaped a fine for some technical infringement of the Laws of the Forest. Unfortunately, however, for this history, Brewood was disafforested early in the reign of King John.

¹ There appears, however, hardly room for another generation, and it is, of course, possible that the younger brother is named first on the Pipe Roll or in the deed.

² Pipe Roll, Staffordshire, 13 Hen. II.

The next appearance of Simon occurs in a deed in the Kenilworth Chartulary, by which Henry de Clinton mortgages his mill of Kibbeclive to Ralph de Cocton for a sum of £10, to be repaid within a year from the first Feast of St. Michael after the surrender of the Castle of Leicester, and in the event of Ralph dying within that term, the mill was to be held by Simon, his son, and if the said Simon should die before the money was repaid, then the mill was to be held by Simon, his brother. As this deed is probably the earliest mortgage of real property on record, I am tempted to give it in its original form. It will be seen that the grammatical construction is very peculiar, the nominative being changed twice in the deed.

"*Sciant omnes tam presentes quam posteri, quod ego Henricus de Clinton posui molendinum meum de Kibbeclive cum ipso molendinario et cum omnibus eidem molendino pertinentibus Randulfo de Coctona pro x libris argenti de primo festo Sancti Michaelis postquam castellum Legrecestrie redditum fuit in uno anno, et sic, quod ipse Henricus non imponet manum eidem molendino usque dum reddat mihi meum debitum, et si ego eidem Rannulfo vel Simoni filio suo si ipse moreretur non reddidissem x libras ad eundem terminum, ipse Rannulfus tenebit predictum molendinum de anno in annum usque dum redderem ei x libras, et si ipse moreretur Simoni filio suo, et si Simon filius suus moreretur Simoni fratri suo, et quod ipse warantizabit mihi predictam conventionem contra omnes calungatores, et si non potest mihi warantizare, tunc dabit mihi in escambio de sua hereditate ad valitudinem predicte conventionis aut reddet mihi predictum debitum. His testibus Bertramo de Verdun, Roberto de Curli, Osberto de Clinton, Rogero filio Willelmi, Ruelan de Verdun, Simone de Verdun, Willielmo de Clinton, Rogero filio Henrici.*"¹

This deed recalls that troubled period of the reign of Henry II, when all the Midland Counties of England had been raised by Robert, Earl of Leicester, Gervase Paganel, Robert de Stafford, Henry de Clinton, and other Barons, in support of the rebellion of the King's sons. The Castle of Leicester was surrendered by Anketil de Mallory and William de Diva, the Constables of the Earl, in August 1174.

Before proceeding further with this history, it may be advisable to advert to one of those difficulties of tenure which frequently occur to perplex the antiquary. For the whole of the period, during which it has just been shewn that Simon, the feoffee of the Abbot at Wrotesley was alive, the manor was held by a tenant named Adam, who under the name of Adam de Wrotesley, appears as the Abbot's tenant in the *Liber Niger*

¹ Harl. MS. 3,650, fol. 139.

of 1166, occurs again on the Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 1170, attests a deed dated A.D. 1176 in Eyton's Antiquities of Shropshire, and numerous other Staffordshire Charters of the reign of Henry II.

His tenure under the Abbot is thus described in the *Liber Niger*, under the Barony of Robert de Stafford.

"*Abbas de Evesham tenet feodum 1 militis, quod Adam de Wroteleg tenet de ipso.*"

It will be seen from the above that Adam was clearly contemporary with Simon, and is returned by Robert de Stafford as occupying the identical position where we should expect to find Simon, son of William de Coctune.

The best explanation of the difficulty which I am able to afford is that Adam, the tenant at Wrottesley, during the reign of Henry II., was holding the manor as tenant for life, or for a term of years under Simon. The practice of putting manors out to farm for lives was a very common practice in old days, and at this early date, before English surnames had become hereditary, a life tenant at Wrottesley, named Adam, would be known as Adam de Wrottesley.¹ To the objection which may be raised that the *Liber Niger* describes him, as holding the manor under the Abbot of Evesham, the answer is, that if the terms of his tenure made him answerable for the military service due from the fee, he would be named in a feodary like the *Liber Niger*, as the tenant in possession. Much misapprehension is often caused from this circumstance. A Feodary, *per se*, does not concern itself with the ownership of land. In most cases, of course, the owner of the land, and the tenant of the fee, are identical, but not invariably so. A tenant by the courtesy of England, who holds a fee in right of a deceased wife, is always named in a feodary as the tenant; and numerous instances can be adduced of individuals holding manors for life or for a term of years who are returned in a feodary as owners of the fee.²

Simon, the Abbots feoffee at Wrottesley, appears never to have taken up his abode there, and as it will be shewn that his son William was known as William de Verdun, I take him to be identical with the Simon de Verdun who is a frequent

¹ His contemporaries, Osbert de Kinfar, Alexander de Claverley, and Alfred de Cannock, were all named after manors of which they were only fermors for life, or for a term, and to show how little consideration was paid to surnames at this period, I may mention that Robert de Stafford, in his return of his knight's fees, in the *Liber Niger*, describes one of his tenants as Hervey de Wilbrighton in one place, and as Hervey de Dunchworth in another.

² As instances of this, I may mention the case of Robert de Bures, who is returned in the "*Nomina Villarum*" as Lord of Chartley, when he was only tenant for life; likewise, John de Grey, who is returned in the same Feodary as lord of Erlide (Yarlet), though he held it only as fermor for a term under the Abbot of Conbermere.

witness to the deeds of Henry de Clinton in the Kenilworth Chartulary. It is also probable that he was in the household of Bertram de Verdun, the head of the house of Verdun, for in the same Chartulary there is a deed by which Henry de Clinton grants to the Priory the land which Turgist holds of him, and the testing clause of this deed runs as follows:—*Testibus, Willelmo de Clinton fratre meo, Ernaldo de Coleshulle, Herberto de Insula, Willelmo de Herburburi, Waltero filio Anketilli, Symone et Henrico de Curia Bertrami de Verdun, Magistro Willelmo de Verdun, Roberto filio Bertrami, Magistro Gilberto de Rochiñ, L. fratre Ade de Aldithel, Willelmo Muchun et aliis.*

If this was the case, it accounts not only for the presence of Bertram de Verdun as a witness to the grant of Wroottesley and Loynton to Symon, but also gives a reason for putting the manor to farm, and for the absence of Symon's name on any Staffordshire record after his single appearance on the Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 1166-67.

Assuming, therefore, that this Symon was the ancestor of the present family of Wroottesley, I purpose to state now all that is known of him, beyond what has been already mentioned.

The earliest deed in which he appears and to which a definite date can be given, is the mortgage of the mill of Kibbeclive by Henry de Clinton, in 1174; but here a difficulty presents itself. If he was the brother of Ralph de Cocton, as this history presumes, he could hardly be a witness to a grant in which he had a personal interest. Eyton, however, to whom I showed this deed, was of opinion that the words "*Simoni fratri suo*" in the deed would refer to a brother of Simon. He argued it would be somewhat incongruous to name an uncle in remainder to a nephew, when there were other brothers, and it is quite certain that this Simon de Cocton had younger brothers, and that in the next generation there were two Simons, who were brothers. This curious usage of giving the same baptismal name to two brothers appears an absurdity at the present day, but there is no doubt it was very frequently done in former days.

To return to Simon de Verdun; in concert with Bertram de Verdun, the head of his family, he occurs as a witness to all the deeds of Henry de Clinton in the Kenilworth Chartulary, but none of these, with the exception of the mortgage named above, can be dated with any certainty. In 1181, however, we obtain another definite date regarding him, for, on the Warwickshire Pipe Roll of 27 Henry II, he is named as defendant in a suit respecting Willey, or Weethly,¹ in that County. The entry in the Roll is as follows:—

¹ There is a Willey in Warwickshire, but as Weethly is written Wilelei in Domesday, Wila and Wilega may refer to either. It is not unlikely that Simon was attempting to recover Weethly from a member of the family of Apetot.

Robertus de Wilega reddidit compotum de ii marcis pro recto de terra de Wila, and in another part of the same Roll—*Robertus de Wile debet xl s. pro habenda loquela sua in Curia Regis versus Simonem de Verdun que erat in Comitatu.*

The meaning of these two entries is, that Robert de Wilega first offered a fine of two marks for a writ of right respecting land in Willey, or Weethly, and afterwards 40s. to transfer the suit from the County into the King's Court.

The first writ of right would have merely transferred the suit from the Lord's Court to the County Court, in which the Sheriff presided. Robert, fearing local influence against his claim, subsequently determined to move the case into the King's Court. I have found no further mention of Simon de Verdun, but judging from his epoch, he probably survived till the reign of Richard I. He was certainly dead before 1199, when he had been succeeded by William de Wrottesley, his son.

To our modern ideas the fact of the head of a family being named de Cocton and his younger brother calling himself Simon de Verdun, may appear strange at first sight, but the practice is still common in Scotland of the eldest son being known by the name of the principal estate, whilst all the younger sons retain the family surname, and the deeds at Coughton shew that nearly all the lesser freeholders within the manor, whom it may be presumed were the younger members of the family, retained the name of de Verdun. From the deeds now at Coughton I have selected the following names at random:—

s. d. Richard de Verdun de Coctun, and in the same deed Richard de Verdun de la Wyke. (The Wyke is a member of Coughton.)

s. d. Simon, son of Robert de Verdun de la Wyke.

s. d. Alice, formerly wife of Robert de Verdun.

s. d. Richard, son of Robert de Verdun.

s. d. John, son of Richard de Verdun de la Wyke, and Simon, his brother.

s. d. Robert de Verdun de la Wyke.

26 E. I. Robert de Verdun de la Wyke.

1 E. 3. John de Verdun, son of Robert de Verdun de la Wyke.

All the above are found dealing with lands and tenements in Coughton, and the Forest Rolls of Warwickshire temp. Henry III name most of them as living in the latter part of that reign. By an original deed formerly preserved at Wrottesley, which is undated, but is shewn by the witnesses to belong to the early part of the reign of Edward I, Richard de Verdun de la Wyke granted to William de Wrottesley "*consanguineo meo*" all the land in La Wyke which fell to him by the death of Simon de Verdun, his ancestor (*antecessoris mei*).

WILLIAM DE WROTTESLEY, A.D. 1199—A.D. 1242.

Simon was succeeded before the year 1199 by William de Wrottesley, who is shewn to be his son by some legal proceedings of the year 1221, which will be detailed further on. He figures at various epochs of his life under the names of William de Wrottesley, William de Verdon, and William fitz Simon, and it seems to have been a mere matter of chance whether the family surname would have assumed at this date the form of Wrottesley, Verdon, or Simmons.¹

The earliest mention of this William is on a Staffordshire Assize Roll of the first year of King John, where he occurs as defendant in a suit brought against him by the Abbot of Croxden. The Abbot was lord of the adjoining manor of Oaken, and essoined his attendance in a suit against William de Wrotteslee in a plea of land. The date of this essoin roll is September 1199, but no further reference to the suit remains.² An essoin was a legal excuse for non-attendance in Court. He next occurs as a surety for his sister-in-law, Hawyse de Waterfall, in a suit of Trinity Term 3 John (May 1201), and this requires some explanation, to make it intelligible to the reader.

Robert fitz Adam, of Waterfall and Butterton-on-the-Moors, had died, leaving five daughters, who were his coheirs. These were:—

1. Eda, who had married Robert de Casterne, a sub-tenant of Sir Hugh de Okeover, at Casterne, in Ilam. Eda was dead at this date, and had left a son William, who was a minor.

2. Mary, the wife of Turgist de Ilum, the sub-tenant of Sir Hugh de Okeover, at Ilam.

3. Marjory, who had married for a first husband Richard, the eldest son of Ralph de Okeover, and half-brother to Sir Hugh de Okeover. Richard had died, leaving no issue, and Marjory had remarried Sir Roger Putrel, a Derbyshire Knight.

4. Hawyse, who had married first, William de Butterton, by whom she had a son William, and secondly, Nicholas de Winster.

5. Ingrida, who married William de Wrottesley.

Upon the death of Robert, an attempt was made to deprive the coheirresses of their rights by one of their neighbours—Sir

¹ As an illustration of the uncertainty attending the final form which a surname may assume, I may mention that when Bertram de Verdun gave Ipstones to a younger brother Herbert, the descendants of this Herbert took the name of Ipstones, but when another brother Henry married Hawyse, the daughter and coheir of Robert fitz Orme, of Darlaston, and became possessed of that manor, his descendants retained the name of Verdun. Again, amongst the freeholders of Coughton, in the reign of Henry III, there was a Philip de Cocton or de Verdon, whose son was called William fitz Philip; the next generation took the more simple form of Philip, and this family of Philips can be traced on the deeds and manor rolls of Coughton down to the reign of Henry VIII, beyond which I have not carried my researches.

² Staffordshire Collections, vol. iii, p. 36. Curia Regis Roll, No. 67 (old numbers).

Henry de Deneston, the owner of Denstone, co. Stafford, a manor held partly under the Verdons of Alton, and partly under the Le Despencers.¹

The records of the suit on the Curia Regis Roll of Michaelmas, 1200, are as follows:—

Staff.—"A day was given to Henry de Duneston, (*sic*) plaintiff, and to Hawyse, wife of Nicholas de Winester, to hear judgement respecting 4 bovates of land in Boterdon, on the morrow of St. Edmund (21 Nov. 1200), before the King, and she was then to produce proof of what she had stated, that her husband had left her and would not defend the suit, having been bribed by the gifts of Henry, and Henry had denied this to be true."

The King had been at Bridgenorth on the previous 11th, 12th, and 13th November, and Hawyse must have appeared in Court on one of those days.

The next entry respecting the suit is dated on the morrow of St. Edmund, at Lincoln. It states:—²

Staff.—"Hawise de Waterfale in a suit against Henry de Daneston (*sic*) to hear judgement (appeared) by Robert, son of Walter. She entered into sureties to prosecute on the Octaves of St. Hillary, before the King in England, and in the meantime '*the King was to be consulted respecting the judgement [et interim loquendum est cum domino Rege de iudicio]*.'"³

The next entry respecting it occurs on the same Roll, under date of the Morrow of Pentecost (14 May 1201):—

"Henry de Donestan (*sic*) offered the King 40s. for judgement on 4 bovates of land in Buterdon, which he claimed against Nicholas de Winestre and Hawise, his wife, and Hawise appeared and stated that the land was her inheritance, and that Nicholas, her husband, bribed by the gifts of Henry, had absented himself so that he would never appear after the plea had been moved, and she offered the King 40s. that she might have a Great Assize, viz., as to which of them had the greater right to the land, and the Lord the King, moved with pity (*motus misericordia*) and having taken council (*et per consilium*), accepted the gift of Hawise. She was, therefore, to have a Great Assize, and a day was given them on the Morrow of the Close of Easter (2 April 1202), on which day four knights were to appear to elect twelve. The surety of Hawyse for the 40s. was William de Wrottesle, and Hawise put in her place William, her son."⁴

¹ Sir Henry de Deneston held his portion of Denstone under the Le Despencers. An Inquisition taken in 3 E. III, to return the value of the lands held by Hugh le Despencer, late Earl of Winchester, states, *inter alia*, that Nicholas de Denstone held of the said Hugh a carucate of land in Denstone by the service of 15s. yearly.

² Curia Regis Roll, No. 41, m. 1 (old numbers).

³ Curia Regis Roll, No. 41, m. 8 (old numbers).

⁴ The trial by the Great Assize was now in full operation. It had been introduced

There probably never was a monarch less likely to be moved by the suggestions of pity than King John, or at the same time more licentious in his amours. The Chronicles inform us that no woman who sued in his courts and who took his fancy escaped without dishonour, and this propensity of the King has been reckoned amongst the principal causes of the detestation with which he was held by his people.¹ Whatever the King's motives may have been, his decision in this case produced an important rule of law, for a legal commentator has written in the margin of the roll, "*femina nupta habet assisum de hereditate sua, ubi vir suus non vult comparere.*"

The same Roll gives us the names of the knights selected to try the cause. It states that Hamo de Weston, Mansel de Pate-shull, Nicholas de Burceston, Pagan de Parles, the four Knights summoned to elect twelve to form the Great Assize between Henry de Duneston, plaintiff, and Hawise de Waterfall, tenant of four bovates of land in Buterdon, appeared and elected these :

William de Chetelton	Nicholas de Meer (Maer)
Adam de Aldithelega (Audley)	Thomas fitz Roger (of Haughton)
Ralph de Blore	William de Ipstanis (Ipstones)
John de Sautcheverel	Hugh de Okovere
William Mauveisin	Robert de Fereres (of Loxley)
Robert de Thomeharn (Tamhorn)	Nicholas de Mutton (Mytton)
Walter de Witefeld	William de Hundesacre
Peter Giffard (of Chillington)	William fitz Guy (of Womburne) ²

A day was given to the parties at the next advent of the Justices, when the jury were to appear.

The Pipe Rolls of the second and third years of King John return Hawyse as owing 40s. for a Great Assize against Henry de Deneston. On the Pipe Roll of 4 John she is returned as having paid two marks, and owing one mark; on the Pipe Roll of 5 John she is returned as quit, the remaining mark having been paid.

The trial had, in fact, come off at the Iter of the Justices in

by the famous Justiciary of Henry II, Ralph de Glanville, to supersede the barbarous wager of battle, which up to his time had been the only method of determining the right to a freehold. It is interesting from its containing the germ of our modern trial by jury, for the tradition that Alfred established this method of trial has no foundation in fact. The Knights of Great Assize were called recognitors, because they were selected for their knowledge of the matter in dispute, and it would appear from the form of the writ, that affinity or relationship to the parties formed no bar to their selection. They were in fact witnesses, as well as judges.

¹ Monarchs seldom sue in vain, but I am afraid Hawyse fell an easy victim, for in a suit of 7 Hen. III (1223), when one of her sons, Luke de Butterson, claimed land in Turleston from the Prior of Tuttebury, by a writ of mort d'ancestor, the Prior pleaded that Luke was a bastard. The cause was referred to the Bishop, who returned that he was legitimate, but this took place before the change was made in the mode of reference to the ecclesiastical courts, and the latter always returned a man as legitimate if the parents were subsequently married.

² The words in brackets are added by the writer.

Staffordshire of that year, the suit having been amalgamated with another brought against Ingrith, the sister of Hawise, by the same plaintiff. The entry on the Roll is as follows :—

William de Yppestane (Ipstones), John de Sautcheverel, Henry de Wotton, Nicholas de Mutton, the four knights summoned to elect twelve to form the Great Assize between Henry de Deneston, plaintiff, and Ingrid de Butterton, tenant, of four bovates of land in Buterdon, respecting which Ingrid had put herself on the Great Assize of the King, and prayed for a verdict as to which of them had the greater right to the land in question. And because the land is partible between her and her sisters, and she could not answer to the plea without them, they all appeared, and put themselves on the Assize together with Ingrid, and the said knights elected these, viz :—

Adam de Alditheley	Jordan de Kniteley (Knightley)
Hamon de Weston	William Bagot of Holedale
Thomas fitzRoger of Hocton	Robert de Ferrars
(Haughton)	William de Handesacre
William de Greseley	Ralph de Hintes
William Mauveisin	Ralph de Knotton (Cnutton)
Yvo de Walton	Philip FitzBishop (de Burgo)
Nicholas de Burgeston (Burstun)	Henry de Roele (Rowley).
Ralph de Blore	

On the same Roll occurs another suit which gives some additional information respecting the coheirs of Robert de Waterfall. It states that William de Ippestanas, John de Sautcheverel, Nicholas de Mutton, and Henry de Wotton, the four knights summoned to elect twelve to return a verdict between Thomas fitzRalph and Yngrith de Buterdon, respecting two bovates of land in Anecot (Onecote), appeared, and Ralph fitzJordan came into Court, and stated that he had in his custody the son of Eda, the sister of Ingrid (*sic*), who was the eldest daughter of Robert fitzAdam, and ought to have his portion of the land, which, similar to that in question (*sicut de illa*), was partible between them—that is to say, that Yngrid had three sisters, viz., Mary, the wife of Turgist, and Hawiz, and Marjory, the wife of Roger Putrel, and another named Eda, who was dead, but whose heir was living, viz., William son of Robert; and because one sister could not lose nor win without the others, inasmuch as the inheritance was partible, and in the same way those would lose who might recover against one sister, it was considered that all should appear and put themselves on the Great Assize together with the said Yngrid. A concord was made (*Concordia facta*), and Thomas gave to the King half a mark, for which Thomas de Kersewell was his surety.¹

¹ Assize Roll Stafford, 5 John, m. 4.

The words "Concordia facta" signify that a fine was levied, but none of the fines levied at this Iter are extant. Fortunately for this history, however, the fine levied on this occasion is quoted on a Staffordshire Assize Roll of 27 Edw. I, in a suit relating to Butterton brought by a later William de Wroottesley and the other representatives of Robert de Waterfall against Henry de Bray, who held the status at that date of Henry de Deneston. It states that in the fifth year of King John a fine had been levied at Lichfield between one Henry de Deneston, plaintiff, and William son of Eda, Yngrith, sister of Eda, Roger Poutrel and Margery his wife, and Hawys de Waterfal, tenants of fourteen bovates of land with appurtenances in Boterdon of the freehold formerly belonging to Robert de Waterfall, the father of the said Eda, Ingrith, Marjory, and Hawys, the ancestor of the said William, Benedict and William, in which fine it was contained that the said William, son of Eda, Yngrith and the others named held, and ought to hold, the tenements in question of the said Henry de Deneston.

This fine gives us the conclusion of the amalgamated suits. Hugh, the son of William de Wroottesley, speaks of his mother Ingrith in a deed which will be given further on, and it therefore appears that William must have been married to the coheirress of that name either before or very shortly after the termination of this suit.

The following extracts from the Assize Roll of 5 John refer to the same suits :—

"Samson of Roucester, Robert le Osteler, Richard de Peitivill and Geoffrey de Seifurlong, who had been sent to hear whom Roger Putrel and Marjory his wife, who are ill (*languidi*) as alleged, wished to put in their place, came into Court and stated they put in their place Robert Putrel their son in a plea of land against Thomas de Stanton and Henry de Deneston ; and Turgist de Hilum (Ilam) and Mary his wife put in their place Henry their son against the same."

[The Thomas de Stanton here named is evidently the same person as the Thomas son of Ralph of the suit against Ingrith de Butterton.]

"From Henry de Deneston, for an Assize at Lichfield, one mark, for which Hugh de Acovere (Okeover) and Robert de Bec are sureties."

"From Hawise, Yngrid, Margaret and William, for license of concord, half a mark, for which Hugh de Acovere was surety."

Hugh de Okeover was therefore surety for both parties, and had probably some hand in the final settlement of the dispute. The Curia Regis Roll of Easter, 7-8 John, contains a plea which shews that his elder brother Richard, who had died s.p. in the lifetime of their father Ralph, had been the first husband of Marjory the wife of Roger Putrel one of the parties of the suit.

I am unable to suggest any reason for the absence of Turgist de Ilam and Mary his wife from the final proceedings. Mary's share of the estate lay in Wetton, and a portion of it subsequently passed to her nephew William de Casterne. By a deed in the Tuttebury Chartulary William de Casterne, son of Robert de Casterne, released to that house all his claim in three bovates of land in Wetindon, which formerly belonged to the Domina Maria de Ylum.¹

It now remains to enquire into the identity of Robert fitz Adam of Waterfall, the father of the coheiresses. If it had not been for the presence of Hugh de Okeover as a juror in one of the suits,² I should have supposed that Robert was a member of that family and the son of an Adam son of Orm of Okeover mentioned by Erdeswick. The fact of the marriage of the two elder coheiresses to the tenants of Ralph de Okeover at Casterne and Ilam, and the marriage of the third daughter to the eldest son of the same Ralph, could hardly have been an accidental coincidence, and points to some close connection with the family of Okeover or to a tenure under them. Waterfall was held of the fee of Chester by the Despencers, who, as coheirs of the Cheshire Barony of de Maubank, held a third of Alstonfield and its members. In an Inquisition taken in 3 Ed. III, to return the value of the lands in Staffordshire, which had been held by Hugh le Despencer, late Earl of Winchester, the jury found that the said Hugh had held (*inter alia*) a third part of the manor of Alstanefeld, of which Richard de Okeover held a portion, and Nicholas de Denstone held of the same Hugh a carucate of land in Denstone by the service of 15s. yearly, and that John de Stauntone, John de Tettebury, Reginald de Hales, and William Poutrel held of the same Hugh the vill of Waterfall, excepting one bovat of land,³ by the service of 16s. 6d. yearly.

The Richard de Okeover and Nicholas de Denstone here named were the successors of Henry de Deneston. John de Tettebury, one of the tenants at Waterfall, was the second husband of Joan, the widow of Sir William de Wrottesley, who had died in 1320, and the other tenants were the representatives of the remaining coheiresses of Waterfall.

The manor of Butters-ton-on-the-Moors was held of the Prior of Tuttebury, and from the terms of a Fine levied in 12 Hen. III,

¹ Tuttebury Chartulary, College of Arms.

² It is a question, however, whether affinity to the parties was any bar to the election of a Knight of Great Assize, as in the case of a common jury. I have certainly met with cases where the knights in these Assizes were connected by blood or affinity to the parties. See a previous note at p. 27.

³ The Burton Chartulary states that the monks held two bovates of land in Waterfala, by the gift of Aschetillus Dispensator and his son Geoffrey. It will be seen, therefore, that this history gives us the names of two ancestors of this great historic house of Despencer, which have not hitherto been discovered by antiquaries.

which will be given further on, must have formed a part originally of the Barony of Ferrers of Tuttebury. The Priory of Tuttebury was founded by Henry de Ferrers in 1080.

Whoever he may have been, it would seem that Robert fitz Adam, of Waterfall, was the possessor of a considerable estate on the moorlands of Staffordshire, for his descendants are found in possession of lands in Onecote, Butterton, Waterfall, Wetton, and Elkstone, which are all places from four to five miles apart, but beyond the foregoing I am unable to say anything definite about him.

To return to William de Wroottesley. With the exception of his appearance as a witness to a few deeds of the reign of King John, no further mention of him occurs until the fifth year of Henry III. During this interval he attests the deed between Isabella, Lady of Patingham, and the nuns of Brewood, which is preserved at Chillington, and has been printed in vol. iii, of Staffordshire Collections, and he is probably identical with the William Fitz Simon, who witnesses the grant of Hugh de Picheford to Haughmond Abbey, quoted by Eyton in vol. i, p. 359, of the Antiquities of Shropshire. Hugh de Picheford was Lord of Albrighton, and in that capacity was one of the immediate neighbours of William de Wroottesley. In this year, viz., in 5 Hen. III (A.D. 1221), an entry on the Memoranda Roll of the Exchequer orders the Sheriff of Staffordshire to distrain the following tenants of the Barony of Stafford for a scutage of three marks, which had been assessed on each knight's fee:—

John le Mareschall for one knight's fee in Couton (Colton).

Henry de Alditheley for three and a quarter knights' fees from the heir of Roger de Somerville (then in his custody).

The heir of Thomas de Erdington for one knight's fee in Ocle (Oakley).

William de Wrotele for one knight's fee in Wrotesle.

The Abbot of Crokesden for one knight's fee in Oken (Oaken).

This record is of interest from its bearing upon the nature of the tenure by which Wroottesley was held.

Robert de Stafford had granted Wroottesley and Loynton to the Monks of Evesham in free alms, but this grant had never been ratified by the King, and the alienation of land held in capite was illegal. The second Robert de Stafford had therefore included this fee in the return known as the Liber Niger of A.D. 1166, but these manors having been granted in frankalmoign to the Abbot of Evesham, the latter would not be liable for scutage to the Barons of Stafford, nor could the latter recover it by distraint from the Abbot's tenant. In the year 1200, however, Hervey Bagot, who had married Milisent, the daughter and sole heiress of the last Robert de Stafford, taking advantage of the illegality of the original grant had attempted to recover the two manors, and the Abbot called Milisent to warranty. The suit

itself is not on record, but a Fine levied in the first year of King John gives us the conclusion of it.

This was levied at Westminster on the Tuesday after the Feast of St. Leonard, 1 John, between Roger, Abbot of Evesham, the plaintiff, and Hervey Bagot and Millicent his wife, in a plea of warranty of the charter of Robert de Stafford, the father of the said Millicent, respecting the land of Wrottesle and Levington and respecting which there had been a plea between them in the Curia Regis. Hervey and Millicent acknowledged the said charter of Robert de Stafford, and the gift of the said Robert to the said Abbot and his successors for ever, and for this quit claim and final concord the Abbot gave to Hervey and Millicent 40s.

The Charter here spoken of was a confirmation of the grant of Wrottesley and Livingston by the second Robert de Stafford, which is printed in the Monasticon.

This Fine would definitely dispose of any claim for scutage by the Barons of Stafford, but the rights of the Crown would not be affected by it. Scutage, however, was collected in gross from the tenants in capite, and it is only in the case of a minority or a forfeiture when the Barony would be in the hands of the King, that a claim of this nature would be made on the *arrière tenants*. How this came to pass in the year 1221 I am unable to explain, but the ultimate result was the final release of the fee of Wrottesley and Loynton from any liability for scutage; for although the Barony of Stafford remained subject to the full assessment of 60 knights' fees, for which Robert de Stafford had acknowledged his liability in 1166,¹ and of which number Wrottesley and Loynton counted for one fee, yet the detailed list of the knights' fees of the same Barony given in the *Testa de Nevill* omits all mention of Wrottesley and Loynton, the requisite number of knights' fees having been made up by subsequent feoffinents out of the demesne of the Barony.

These transactions, however, could not affect the nature of the service by which Wrottesley was held of the Abbot by his subtenant. This would depend on the terms of the charter of feoffment, and it will be seen that it eventually became a source of endless controversy and dispute on the occasion of every minority of an heir.

In this same year, viz., in 1221, William de Wrottesley commenced a suit-at-law against Luke, son of William de Boterdon for the service due for half a bovat of land in Butterton. The records which exist of this suit enable us to identify him as son of Simon, and, therefore, presumably as son of Simon, son of William de Cocton.

¹ The *Liber Niger Scaccarii*, printed by Hearne, and *Liber Rubeus*, edited by Mr. Hubert Hall, 1896.

Under the heading of "Nova Oblata," the Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 5 Henry III states that

"William fitz Simon owes half a mark for a writ of 'Pone' against Luke de Buterdon respecting land in Buterdon."

The Fine Roll of the same year has the same entry more at length, it says :—

"William fitz Simon gives to the Lord the King half a mark for a writ of 'Pone' before the Justices Itinerant against Luke de Buterdon respecting the service which the said William claimed from him for a freehold in Buterdon."

The suit was heard at Warwick before the Justices Itinerant in January 1222. The Record states that *William de Wurtlega* (*sic*) sued Luke, son of William, for the service owing to him for a bovate of land in Buterdon. A concord was made by which Luke acknowledged he owed a service of 26^d annually, when he had at first acknowledged to owe 6^d only, and William declared himself to be satisfied "*tenuit se pacatum*."¹

Apparently, however, William was not satisfied with the result, for at Hillary term of the following year [7 Henry III] Luke de Buterdon appeared against *William de Wrotelega* in a plea that he should complete the chirograph of a Fine made between them before the Justices Itinerant at Warwick respecting half a bovate of land in Buterdon; William did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to attach him for a month from Easter.

On the Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 7 Henry III the Sheriff renders an account, amongst the "Oblata," for half a mark paid by *William fitz Simon* for a writ of "Pone."²

The Fine which concludes this suit has been preserved, and the William fitz Simon of the Pipe and Fine Rolls becomes again William de Wroottesley. It was levied at Westminster on the Morrow of St. Martin, 8 Henry III [12 Nov. 1223] between William de Wroottesley, plaintiff, and Luke de Buterdon, deforciant, of the service of thirty pence and one halfpenny, which the said William claimed of Luke for half a bovate of land with appurtenances which Luke held of him in Buterdon, and respecting which a plea had been held between them in the said Court, and Luke acknowledged he owed twenty-six pence for the land, so that he and his heirs should render annually a service of twenty-six pence for it. And Luke further conceded that he and his heirs should find every year a man for the chases of William de Ferrars, Earl of Derby, and his heirs, in the forest of Crudeot, and for this recognition William remitted to the said Luke and his heirs all arrears of the above service of thirty pence halfpenny.

¹ Coram Rege Roll, No. 10 (old numbers).

² A writ of "Pone" transfers a suit from the local Court to be heard at Westminster or before Justices Itinerant.

To somewhere about the same date may be ascribed three deeds in the Tutbury Chartulary, by which William de Wrottesley, Robert Putrel, and William, son of William de Buterdon grant the park and wood of Ekedon (Elkstone) to the monks of that house in free alms.¹ The grantors were the representatives of the coheiresses of Robert fitz Adam of Waterfall, holding in coparcenary, and it may therefore be assumed that at this date the issue of the other sisters had failed.

The next definite notice respecting William de Wrottesley is contained on the Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 11 Henry III (A.D. 1227) which returns him as owing half a mark for license of concord, at the Iter of Stephen de Segrave in Warwickshire.

The records of this Iter have been lost, but the Fine for which the above fee was paid has been preserved. It was levied at Coventry on the Morrow of the Octaves of St. Martin 11 Henry III [19 Nov. 1226] between William de Wrottele, plaintiff, and Simon de Cocton and Constance, his wife, tenants of a fourth part of a hyde of land in La Wyke, respecting which an assize of mort d'ancestor had been summoned between them. William remitted and quit-claimed to the said Simon and to Constance and to the heirs of Constance, all his right and claim to the said land, for which Simon and Constance gave him a mark of silver.

These proceedings are of interest from their bearing on the descent of William from Simon de Verdun. The Wyke was a member of Coughton, but a separate manor, having been subinfeudated before the Statute of "Quia Emptores," and the site of the ancient manor house is still apparent from the remains of the moat which formerly surrounded it. Four years before this date a Fine had been levied at Warwick between Robert de Verdun, plaintiff, and Simon de Cocton and Constance, his wife (by Simon, brother of the said Simon, put in the place of the said Constance), of half a hide of land in La Wyke, respecting which an assize of mort d'ancestor had been summoned between them. By this Fine Simon and Constance conceded to Robert a virgate of land for the service of half a pound of pepper, and Robert released all claim to the remainder of the land.

Constance was half-sister to Robert de Verdun, her father having married Iveta, the mother of Robert.²

The Staffordshire Assize Roll of 12 Henry III (A.D. 1227) shews William de Wrottesley again involved in a law suit respecting a part of his wife's inheritance in Waterfall. The record states that, "Margaret, the wife of Robert de Stanton,

¹ Tutbury Chartulary in the College of Arms.

² Warwick Assize Roll, 5 Henry III.

puts in her place Robert, her husband, or Henry de Aneston (?Deneston) against Hawise de Waterfathe and William de Wrotesle. in a plea of mort ancestor." Another entry on the same Roll states that, "Hawise de Waterfale gave half a mark for license of concord with Robert de Stanton and Margaret, his wife, respecting one-third of a bovate of land in Waterfale, and the concord is such that Hawise acknowledged the land to be the right of Margaret, to be held by Robert and Margaret of the said Hawise and her heirs for a pound of cumin yearly, and performing to the capital lord the services due for the land. William de Wrotesley was surety for the half mark."

Margaret, the plaintiff in this suit, is doubtless the sister of Hawise, married to a third husband. Robert de Stanton was the head of a knightly family holding under the Earls of Ferrers.

No further mention of William de Wrotesley has been found in the Public Records, but we have now reached a period when private charters become numerous. In most of the deeds of this date of the families of Bushbury, Pendeford, Perton and Mausel of Patshull, his name appears as a witness. In those of later date his name in the attesting clause is usually succeeded by that of his son Hugh.

He was alive as late as A.D. 1241, for he occurs as a witness to deeds of John de Perton, who had succeeded his father Ralph in that year.¹ He also attests a Patshull deed, which, although undated, can be shewn to belong to this year, for it is witnessed by Nicholas de Willey, Sheriff of Salop. This Nicholas acted as Sub-Sheriff for John le Strange, A.D. 1241.² William was certainly dead before the 12 February 1248, for on that date Hugh de Wrotesley witnesses an agreement made before the Justices Itinerant at Lichfield, between Ralph Basset and John de Perton, respecting common of pasture in Pattingham and Perton.³

He had five sons; Hugh, who succeeded him at Wrotesley, and William, Richard, Henry, and Bertram. He also left a daughter Alice, married to Henry le Freman of Wrotesley. He appears likewise to have had two brothers, Richard and Henry, for by a deed formerly preserved at Wrotesley, Thomas de Marisco granted land in Tettenhall to Richard fitz Simon. This deed was witnessed by Sir Robert de Esenington (Essington), Sir John de Pertun, William de Wrotesle, Hugh de Wrotesle, Nicholas de Oca (Oaken), and Henry fitz Simon.

Besides this deed there were formerly at Wrotesley two

¹ Fine Roll, 25 Henry III. By writ of 26 Sept. the King accepted the homage of John, son of Ralph de Perton, for a fine of five marks. Perton, which adjoins Wrotesley, was held *in capite*.

² Salop Chartulary and Eyton's Shropshire.

³ Original deed at Wrotesley, copied 1860.

other ancient charters, which belong to this epoch, and as deeds of this early date are interesting to antiquaries, I give them at length, omitting only the formal portions.

“Sciunt tam presentes quam futuri, quod ego Hawis filia Roberti de Waterfall dedi et concessi, et hac carta mea confirmavi et concessu Willelmi filii mei et heredis, Jacobo Ladsivi pro sibi et heredibus suis, in feodo et hereditate unum placium in villa de Boterdone, scilicet illud placium quod [jacet] inter placium Rogeri Pultrel et placium Willelmi de Casterne libere et quiete ab omnibus servitiis quos ad me pertinent, tribus denariis annuatim reddendis, scilicet ad Nativitatem Sancte Marie. Hiis testibus, Roberto filio Radulphi de Preston, Ada filio Roberti de Derlec, Willelmo de Wrottesleye, Domina Yngridal uxore [ejus], Roberto, Willelmo filio Samson et multis aliis.”¹

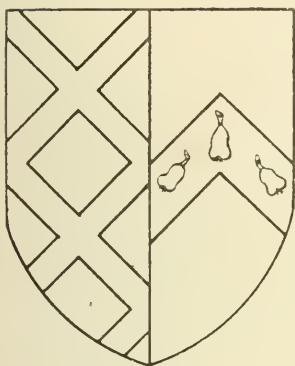
“Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Willelmus de Wrotesle dedi et concessi et hac carta confirmavi Ricardo fabro de Wrotesle pro homagio et servitio suo unum essartum quod jacet in Blakelegli inter rivulum de Cumbwell et regiam stratam que ducit versus Brug. Habendum et tenendum de me et heredibus meis libere, quiete, pacifice, jure hereditario in perpetuum cum omnibus suis pertinentiis et omnibus aiscamentis, comunis, libertatibus, et liberis consuetudinibus, cum husbote et heibote in bosco meo de Wrotesle quantum sufficit ad tantum tenementum. Reddendo inde annuatim ipse et heredes sui mihi et heredibus meis novem denarios ad duos anni terminos videlicet ad Purificationem beate virginis quatuor denarios et obolum, et ad festum beati Petri ad Vincula quatuor denarios et obolum pro omni servitio, consuetudine et demanda. Ego vero etc. (clause of warranty). Hiis testibus, Magistro Thoma de Chabbeham Rectore ecclesie de Codeshall, domino Elia de Tetenhale, Roberto domino de Bissopesbury, Roberto domino de Pendeford, Ricardo domino de Oxele, Willelmo de Waur, Radulpho Painel, Willelmo de Mollesle, Nicholao de Aken, Ricardo de Aldinton.”²

Seal of dark green wax, with the effigy of a fleur-de-lys, and legend, Sigillum Willelmi—the rest broken off.

¹ From copies of Butterson deeds at Wrottesley. These were contained on twenty pages of ancient foolscap, stitched together and written in a hand of the time of Charles I. with this certificate on the fly leaf, “Mem^{dum} that I received this booke from Sir Wauter Millward for the use of my master Walter Wrottesley, Esquire, the 15th day of March anno domini 1637, being true coppies of such deedes as my master had to give for the use of the purchasers of Butterson, per me Marc Antonio Coesar Galliardello.” For an account of Mark Galliardello, see Grazebrook’s notes on Dugdale’s Visitation of Staffordshire, vol. v. of Staffordshire Collections.

² Original deed at Wrottesley 1860. With respect to the witnesses, Magister Thomas de Chabbeham had been employed in the service of King John, for the Rotulus Mise of 14 John has, “Magistro Thoma de Chabbenham eunti in servitium domini Regis in partibus transmarinis &c.” Robert occurs as lord of Bushbury in 25 Hen. III [A.D. 1241]. (Coram Rege Roll). The Forest Pleas show that he was alive in 46 Hen. III and dead before 55 Hen. III (A.D. 1271). Elyas, the Canon of Tettenhall, was living 32 Hen. III (Patent Roll, 32 Hen. III). Robert, was lord of Pendeford in 39 Hen. III (Hundred Roll of Seisdon of that date). William de Waur was one of the Jurors of Offlow Hundred in 39 Hen. III (Hundred Roll). Nicholas de Aken was tenant at Oaken under the Crown in 39 Hen. III (Hundred Roll).

SIR HUGH DE WROTTESLEY, A.D. 1248 TO A.D. 1276.



William de Wroottesley was succeeded by his son Hugh, who occurs as a witness in his father's lifetime to several Staffordshire deeds of the reign of Henry III, his name immediately following that of his father in the testing clause, as "Willelmo de Wrootele et Hugone filio suo."¹ He is also shewn to be son of William by a suit in Banco of the reign of Edward II, which will be given later on.

As already mentioned, he witnesses a convention made at the assizes at Lichfield on the 12 February, 1248, between John de Perton and Ralph Basset of Drayton. This deed has been printed in full by Mr. Jones in his History of Tettenhall.

In the following year he formed one of the jurors who returned by Inquisition the value of the King's manor of Tettenhall. It will help to date charters of this period if I give the names of these jurors in full. They were:—

Robert Maunsell [of Patshull]	Robert de Pendeford
Hugh de Wrootteslega	William, the Sergeant (Serviens)
Walter de Overton	of Pencriz
Gervase of Wolverhampton	Hugh de Molleslega
John le Suur of Evenefeld	John, son of Stephen de Edmo-
(Enville)	deston, and
Adam de la Lowe	Henry de Hulle of Bissopburi
Robert de Bissopburi (Bushbury)	

To about this date likewise may be set down an entry respecting Hugh de Wroottesley in the Testa de Neville. Under the heading of "*De Serjantiis arentatis per Robertum Passelewe*" he is returned as holding a virgate of land in Perton which had been alienated from the Sergeanty of John de Perton.²

In the year 1248 the King with a view of replenishing his treasury which had been greatly reduced by improvident grants, had appointed Robert Passelewe, the Archdeacon of Lewes and Treasurer of the Kingdom, to make enquiry into the alienations made without license by the holders of Sergeanties,³ to fix fines

¹ Huntbach MSS. and Ashmole's Collections for Staffordshire.

² Testa de Nevill, printed, pp. 58 and 59.

³ A Sergeanty was an hereditary tenure under the Crown for some honorable consideration other than knight's service. When it involved military duties, such as Castle Guard or service as a lightly armed horseman, it was styled a Grand Sergeanty. John de Perton's service was that of a lightly armed horseman in Wales for eight days at his own cost, and if retained longer, at the cost of the King. The King's tenants who held by Castle Guard were styled Vavassors in Normandy.

for the same, and to exact in addition an annual rent in money as a composition. This was one of the many impolitic acts which subsequently caused the rebellion of the Barons under Simon de Montfort. One of the victims of it was John de Perton, the nearest neighbour of Hugh de Wrottesley and his brother-in-law. The Treasurer returned a portion of the Perton Sergeanty as alienated by grants made to Roger de Perton, Michael de Treseote and Hugh de Wrottesley. The Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 32 Henry III returns John de Perton as owing eight marks "*pro transgressione*" which is, without doubt, his fine for the above alienation. On the Roll of 34 Henry III the Sheriff accounts for 5s. 9d. received from John de Perton in payment for two virgates of land alienated in Perton. A deed and a suit-at-law of later date shew that Hugh de Wrottesley had held a virgate of land in Perton in frankmarriage with Idonia, the daughter of Ralph de Perton, the father of John.

With the exception of Hugh de Wrottesley's appearance as a witness to several Staffordshire deeds, there is nothing to record respecting him for the next seven years. In 1255, the thirty-ninth year of the King's reign, a special commission was issued to enquire into the rights of the Crown, which had been abstracted or diminished, and into the service due to the Hundred and County Courts by every manor within each Hundred. The returns to this commission are called the Hundred Rolls, and most of them have been printed by the Record Commission of the early part of this century. At the date however, when these Rolls were published, the returns for the Hundred of Seisdon were missing, and the present writer having found them amongst the miscellaneous Rolls of the Old Chapter House, printed them in vol. V. of the Staffordshire Collections.

The twelve jurors of the Hundred of Seisdon were :—

Thomas de Tresel	Philip de Lutteleye
Henry de Morf	Walter de Overton
Walter de Bradele	Hugh de Wrottesleye
Clement of Wolverhampton	Richard de Fonte
Walter le Daneys	William de Whitinton
Hamund de Bradwall	and William fitz Warine

Under Wrottesley, they returned that Hugh de Wrottesle held a hide of land in Wrottesle of the Abbot of Evesham, rendering to the Abbot two marks, and for frankpledge he gave 12d., for the Sheriff's aid 12d., and for the Hundred aid 4d., and did suit to the County and Hundred (Courts), and the land was geldable (*i.e.*, liable to taxation).

The 12d. paid for frankpledge was for the view of frankpledge in the Manorial Court in place of the Hundred Court.

The hidage named in the Hundred Rolls corresponds in nearly every instance with that named in Domesday, and wherever it

differs, the cause can usually be found in the partial afforestation of a manor, or the elemosination of it to a religious house. It will be noted that the hidage of Wroottesley had been reduced from two hides to one, and this arose probably from the grant of it to Evesham Abbey. Those portions of a manor which were devoted to religious uses were not geldable, and this part would be represented in the case of Wroottesley by the chief rent of two marks payable to the Abbey.¹

Under Perton, the jury returned that John de Perton held three hides of land by the service of Sergeanty, etc., and added that Ralph de Perton had alienated two and a half virgates of land, for which the King received annually 5s. 9d. as a fine imposed by Robert Passelewe.

Passing over three more years, I find that at the sittings of the King's Court at Westminster of Michaelmas term 42 Henry III (A.D. 1258) John de Frene and Wylde Scheil appeared against Hugh de Wroottesle and William Shirelok in a plea that they had insulted, beaten, and illtreated them against the King's peace, etc. The defendants did not appear, and Hugh had been attached by Stephen de Wroottesle, the Forester, and Nicholas, son of Richard de Wroottesle. He was, therefore, to be attached by better sureties, to appear at fifteen days from St. Hillary, and the former sureties were *in misericordiâ*. As regarded William Shirelok, the Sheriff returned that he could not be found, and he was ordered to attach him to appear at the same date.² No further notice of this suit occurs on the Rolls.

In the following year Hugh de Wroottesley heads the list of jurors of an Inquisition on the death of his neighbour, Ralph de Perton.

John de Perton, the brother-in-law of Hugh, had died in 1258, and had been succeeded by his son Ralph, at that time only twenty-four years of age; within little more than a twelvemonth from this date, Ralph was likewise dead, having fallen, I think, in an ambuscade in Wales, which is described in the Chronicles, and in which many other knights and men-at-arms were killed. My reason for this supposition is the unusual form of the King's writ to the Eschaetor. In place of the usual formula, "*diem clausit extremum*," the words "*infata discessit*" have been substituted in the preamble of the writ.

The Inquisition took place on the Thursday after the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, 43 Henry III (11 Sept. 1259), on the oath of Hugh de Wroottesley, Walter de Overton (lord of Wombourne and Orton), Roger Boffari (lord of Lower Penn),

¹ The return was a very favourable one for Hugh de Wroottesley, which is the more remarkable, as the Burton Chronicle states that the Justiciary, Philip Lovel, who conducted the enquiry in Staffordshire—"durius et asperius se habente," had imposed new burdens on the tenants of land in the county.

² Plea Roll, No. 16, Old Tower Records, printed in Vol. iv., Staffordshire Collections, p. 137.

William fitz Warine (of Trescott), and eight others. After the usual particulars respecting the tenure of Perton, the jurors stated that Ralph paid 5s. annually to the King for land alienated from the fee, and that William, his brother, was his nearest heir, and twenty-two years of age. Amongst other particulars they mentioned that Ralph had left a widow, Margaret, who was suing for her dower. This Margaret subsequently married John le Botiller, the son of Amice, daughter of Hugh de Wrottesley, and will figure in a subsequent page of this history.

Two years after this date we find Hugh de Wrottesley engaged in a dispute with his nephew, William de Perton, respecting the bounds of their respective manors. A writ on the Close Roll of 45 Henry III (A.D. 1361), directs the Sheriff of co. Stafford to proceed in person to the land of Hugh de Wrottele at Wrottele, and the land of William de Perton at Perton, and to take with him twelve discreet and lawful knights of his county, and upon their oath, to make a perambulation by metes and bounds, between the land of the said Hugh at Wrottele, and the land of the said William de Perton.¹

This perambulation appears never to have taken place for the boundaries between Wrottesley and Perton remained in abeyance until 1298, the date of an indented deed which will be given further on.

In addition to this dispute William de Perton was attempting at this date to recover the virgate of land in Perton which had been alienated by his grandfather, Ralph de Perton, on the marriage of Itonia, the daughter of Ralph, with Hugh de Wrottesley. On the Patent Roll of 46 Henry III (A.D. 1262), Martin de Littelburi was appointed to take the assize of novel disseisin which William de Pereton (*sic*) had arraigned against Hugh de Wrokesley (*sic*) and others respecting a tenement in Pereton. The Assize Roll of this date has been lost, but a deed abstracted by Vincent and Ashmole without doubt gives us the result of the suit. By this deed, William, son of John de Perton, remits to Hugh, son of William de Wrottesley, and his heirs, all his right in the lands and tenements which the said Hugh held in frank marriage by the gift of Ralph de Perton, his grandfather. This deed is witnessed by Robert de Bissobury and Roger Bullary, both of whom were dead before 1269.²

In the same year, viz. 1262, Pleas of the Forest were held at Lichtfield before Alan la Zuche, the Justiciary of the Forests *citra* Trent. Hugh de Wrottesley was one of the Reguardors of Kinver Forest, who were fined on this occasion for an insufficient return. It was the duty of the Reguardors to keep a roll on

¹ Close Roll, 45 Henry III, m. 10, dorso.

² Ashmole's MSS., No. 833, and Shaw's Staffordshire, Vol. ii, p. 238.

which was entered every matter prejudicial to the Forests, excepting trespasses against the deer, which were dealt with by presentments at the Swanmotes. Of the twelve regardors fined on this occasion, Robert de Bissebury, Hugh de Wrotesley, Richard de Evenefeld and Adam de Camera were fined one mark each, and the others half a mark. The *misericordia* or fine of a knight was always double that of other delinquents.

For the next three years there is nothing to record respecting him, but on the Patent Roll of 49 Henry III (A.D. 1265) we find notices of cross suits between him and the Abbot of Croxden respecting common of pasture in their respective manors of Wrotesley and Oaken. For two or three centuries after the Conquest, the boundaries of manors appear to have been undefined, and the tenants of contiguous manors had reciprocal rights of common over the waste of both manors. The Statute of Merton of 20 Henry III [A.D. 1236] which empowered the lords of manors to enclose waste lands so long as they left sufficient pasturage for their tenants and free ingress and egress to the pasturage, gave a great stimulus to the enclosure of open lands, but necessarily led to disputes between the lords and tenants of contiguous manors, as every enclosure of waste land in one manor diminished by so much, the pasturage available for the tenants of neighbouring manors.

In the first of the above suits Giles de Erdington was appointed to take an assize of novel disseisin, which the Abbot of Crokesdene had arraigned against Hugh de Wrotesley and Roger le Suur (the Sewer) respecting a tenement in Ake (Oaken), and to take an assize of novel disseisin, which the same Abbot had arraigned against Hugh de Wrokesley (*sic*), concerning common of pasture in Wrokesley.¹

Another entry on the back of the same Roll states that Giles de Erdington was assigned to take an assize of novel disseisin, which Hugh de Wrotesley had arraigned against the Abbot of Crokesdene respecting common of pasture in Aken.²

Before any of these suits could come into Court the Battle of Evesham had been fought, and Hugh de Wrotesley, who had adhered to the side of Simon de Montford, was a fugitive, disinherited of all his possessions.

The contemporary Dunstable Chronicle informs us that :—

“ Dominus Rex, post bellum, dedit licenciam communam, ut victores, terras et res victorum, ejectibus uxoribus et liberis, invaderent et occuparent,

¹ Rot. Pat. 49 Henry III, m. 16, dorso, Stafford.

² Rot. Pat. 49 Henry III, m. 17, dorso, Stafford. An assize of “nova dissaisina” was the most common form of trial by which a claim to a freehold was determined, and was employed where anyone disseised another of his freehold unjustly, and within the legal limit of time, hence the epithet “nova.” This was varied at different times by Statute. At the date in question, the limit was the “primam transfretationem domini Regis in Vasc niam or A.D. 1221.”

quod et factum est, quas terras per commune consilium, omnes in manus domini Regis resignaverunt, ut ipse singulos secundum sua merita de eisdem terris feofaret."

A Parliament shortly afterwards confirmed all the acts, which disinherited the King's enemies.

The "*exhereditati*," as they are termed in the Chronicles, under the leadership of Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, Simon de Montfort, the younger, Baldwin Wake, and others, retired into the Fens of Lincolnshire, from whence they sallied out and plundered the neighbouring counties. They likewise held de Montfort's castle of Kenilworth, which contained a numerous garrison, under the command of Henry de Hastings.

In June of the following year, viz., 1266, the King laid siege to Kenilworth. In September it was surrendered by Hastings, under composition, his provisions being exhausted.

It had become manifest by this time that the country would never be pacified, while so many were disinherited of their lands, and it was decided that the King should nominate six of his Council, who should elect six others, to deliberate upon the best means for restoring peace. Amongst the twelve chosen for this purpose was John de Somery, the Baron of Dudley, who was the only Staffordshire baron who had remained faithful to the King.

The "*Dictum of Kenilworth*," as it was called, was proclaimed at Coventry on the Vigil of All Saints, 51 Henry III (31 October, 1266). It provided that all those who had been at Northampton in arms against the King, or at Evesham, or at the battle of Chesterfield, or in the Castle of Kenilworth, should give the value of five years to those who held their estates, and others, according to their delinquency, should give two years value, and others one year, for the redemption of their lands, and that the money should be paid within three years.

The deeds by which Hugh de Wrottesley compounded for his estates were preserved at Wrottesley until the late fire, and I give them here *in extenso*, having been informed by Eyton that he had never met with any others, and that he believed them to be unique.

Universis Chrispi fidelibus, presentas literas visuris vel audituris, Rogerus Sprengnose, dominus de Longenole salutem in domino, Noverit universitas vestra me pro me et heredibus et assignatis meis, quietelam-asse in perpetuum Hugoni de Wrotteslega et heredibus suis, totam terram suam et totum jus, quod habui in ea, ex dono domini Regis Henrici filii Regis Johannis occasione turbationis regni Anglie in ipso regno tunc exorte, et pro hac quieta clamazione dedit mihi predictus Hugo sexaginta marcas sterlingorum pro redemptione terre sue predictae, de quibus me voco plene et legaliter pacatum. In cujus rei testimonium

has literas meas ei feci patentes sigillo meo signatas, Hiis testibus Johanne filio Philippi milite, Ricardo de Hevenfeud, Radulfo de Bissoburi, Johanne de Pendeford, Willelmo de Overton et aliis.¹

Seal destroyed.

Apparently this deed was not considered sufficiently explicit. It contained no clause of warranty and the lands of Hugh had been granted to Sir Roger Sprengelose by Hamon Lestraunge, the Sheriff of Salop and Stafford. The first deed was therefore supplemented by a second in these words :—

Noverint universi, presentes et futuri, quod ego Rogerus Sprengelose dominus de Longenolre, dimisi et quietclamavi pro me et heredibus meis Hugoni de Wrotesle et heredibus suis totum jus et claviu meum quod habui vel quod habere potui in terris et tenementis ipsius Hugonis michi a domino Rege datis. Ita quod ipse Hugo et heredes sui dictas terras et tenementa habeant et teneant in perpetuum, adeo integre, libere, et pacifice sicut ipse et antecessores sui ea liberius et melius teneant non obstante aliquo impedimento vel reclamacione mei vel heredum meorum. Et versus quoscunque qui jus vendicant in eisdem terris occasione alicujus doni inde facti vel a domino Rege vel a domino Hamone Extraneo warantizabo et defendam. Pro hac autem dimissione et quieta clamantia dedit mihi prenomminatus Hugo sexaginta marcas sterlingorum et ut hec mea dimissio et quieta clamantia perpetuam firmitatem optineant presentem cartam sigilli mei impressione roboravi. Hiis testibus Johanne de Picheford, Magistro Thoma de Chabbeham, Johanne Capellano de Albrithton, Willelmo Chaumpencis, Willelmo Olif, et Willelmo de Unfreiston et aliis.²

Hugh de Wrottesley must have redeemed his lands before the 9th July, 1268, for on that date he was foreman of a jury on an Inquisition "*ad quod damnum*," a writ having been issued to enquire on the oath of the Verderers and other free and legal men of the Forest of Kynfar whether it would be to the King's detriment if Leo de Romesley enclosed his wood of Horewode within the forest. The Inquisition was taken before Roger de Clifford, the Justiciary of the Forests-citra-Trent, on the oath of

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860. Roger Sprengelose, or de Sprengeloux, was lord of Longnor, co. Salop. The first witness, John fitz Philip, was lord of Bobbington and Barlaston, co. Stafford, and Hereditary Forester of Kinver. By writ dated from Kenilworth 19 November, 51 Henry III (1266), the King, at the intercession of his Queen, remits all his indignation and rancour against John fitz Philip, and restores his lands to him. Richard de Hevenfeud, or Evenefeld, as it is usually written, was the contemporary lord of Envile, co. Stafford. Ralph de Bissoburi was lord of Bushbury; John de Pendeford was lord of Pendeford, and William de Overton was lord of Wombourne and Orton. All these witnesses were near neighbours of Hugh de Wrottesley.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860. Sir Hamon Lestraunge was Sheriff for the counties of Stafford and Salop for the five years between 47 Henry III and 51 Henry III. John de Picheford, the first witness, was lord of Picheford and Albrighon, co. Salop. His father, Ralph, died in 1252, leaving his son, a minor. John came of age in 1258, and died in 1285. Inq. p.m. Magister Thomas de Chabbeham was rector of Codsall, near Wrottesley, and must have been over eighty years of age at this date, for he is named on the Misa Roll of 14 John (1212).

Hugh de Wrotteslega, Henry de Morf, Richard de Evenefeld, William de Overton, John de Tresel, Thomas de Lutteleg, and six others.

The landowner of the present day, who lives under well defined laws and with rights which have been confirmed by the use and custom of centuries, has little idea of the constant state of legal strife in which the landed proprietors of former days were involved. Besides the law suits which have been already named, I find that on the Patent Roll of 43 Henry III (1259) Giles de Erdington was assigned to take an assize of novel disseisin which Richard de Wrotteslega had arraigned against Hugh de Wrottesle respecting tenements in Faterfal (Waterfall). A few years afterwards, viz., on the Pipe Rolls of 51 to 53 Henry III (1267-69) Richard de Wrottesley is again returned as owing half a mark for an assize, and on the Pipe Roll of 52 Henry III (1268) Hugh de Wrottesley is returned as owing half a mark for a writ.

On the Patent Roll of 54 Henry III (1270) Ralph de Hengham was assigned to take an assize of novel disseisin which Alice, the daughter of William de Wrottesley, had arraigned against Hugh de Wrottesley and others respecting a tenement in Wrottesleye. On the Pipe Roll of 56 Henry III (1272) Hugh de Wrottesley is returned as owing half a mark for a writ, and the Rolls of the following reign, up to 1276, mention three other law suits in which he was either plaintiff or defendant. No record of any of these suits has been discovered, but the Stafford Assize Roll of 56 Henry III has an entry to the effect that Alice, the daughter of William de Wrottesle, who had appealed to a jury of twenty-four to convict a jury of twelve (of a false judgement) in a plea of novel disseisin against Hugh de Wrottesle and others respecting land in Wrottesle, came into Court and withdrew her plea. She and her sureties, viz. Robert de Haggeley and Thomas de la Pole of Lutteley, were *in misericordia*. Alice had evidently been unsuccessful in her plea of 1270 and had appealed. This Alice was sister to Hugh de Wrottesley, and had been married in her father's lifetime to Henry le Freman of Wrottesley,¹ who appears to have been at that time the only free tenant in the manor, and who may possibly have been the descendant of the "liber homo" mentioned in Domesday. William de Wrottesley had given to her on her marriage a messuage and twenty selions of land in Wrottesley.¹ Three deeds formerly at Wrottesley had probably some connection with the termination of this suit. By these deeds Hugh de Wrottesley, Alice, and William, son of Hugh de Wrottesley, severally grant land in Wrottesley to Hugh le Freeman, the son

¹ Original deeds at Wrottesley, 1860.

of Aliee. The latter survived her brother Hugh, and by a later deed released to William de Wrottesley, the next lord, all her right to the land in Wrottesley given to her in frank marriage, accepting in lieu of it a rent in food and corn.¹

At the Pleas of the Forest held at Lichfield at Michaelmas, 1271, the Reguardors of Kinver Forest appeared by Hugh de Wrottesley, John de Tresel, William de Overton, William de Mollesley, Reginald de Bradeley and six others named, and made various presentments respecting breaches of the Forest Law which had been committed by tenants of Tettenhall and other places. These have been printed in volume V. of the Wm. Salt Series of Staffordshire Collections.

The Swanimote of Cannock presented at the same Iter, that William de Perton, William, son of Alan de Overton, Ralph de Bysobhuri, Roger, his brother, William, son of Hugh de Wrotteslegh, William de Penne, and three others named, were customary malefactors of venison in the Bailiwicks of Bentlegh and Oggele, and that on the Friday before Pentecost 54 Henry III [1270] they had taken three does without warrant in the Bailiwick of Bentlegh, and carried them to the house of Ralph de Bysobhuri and had there divided them. William de Wrotteslegh appeared, and, being convicted, was detained in prison, and William de Perton, William, son of Alan, Ralph de Bysobhuri, and Roger, his brother, were already in prison on other charges, and the Sheriff was commanded to arrest William de Penne; the three other defendants who had not appeared, were to be outlawed. William de Penne afterwards appeared and was sent to prison, and subsequently released for a fine of 20s., and William de Wrottesley was released for a fine of 20s., for which his father Hugh was surety. The process of the Court seems to have been that those who were convicted were detained in prison till the last day of the sittings of the Court, when their fines were inflicted, and on finding security for the payment of these, they were released. The usual fine 20s. for taking venison would be equivalent to about £20 at the present day.

At the County Assizes of the following year [1272] Hugh de Wrottesley appeared as one of the Jury of the Hundred of Seisdon. At this early date the Hundred Jury consisted for the most part of the lords of manors within the Hundred. The other jurors were: Richard de Evenefeld (the Lord of Enville), Henry de Prestwode (of Kinver), William de Overton (Lord of Wombourne and Orton), John de Tresel (Lord of Trysull), William de Perton (Lord of Perton), and six others. Their presentments will be found in volume IV of Staffordshire Collections, p. 209.

¹ See deeds *infra* further on

The Patent Roll of 2 Edward I [1274] states that Ralph de Hengham and W. de Hopton had been assigned to take an Assize of novel disseisin which Hugh de Wrotesleye had arraigned against Ralph Basset of Drayton, and others, respecting tenements in Wrotesleye, and in the same Roll Ralph de Hengham and Walter de Helion were appointed to take an Assize of novel disseisin which Hugh de Wrotele had arraigned against the Abbot of Crokesdene and others, respecting tenements in Wrotele. Both these actions must have referred to disputed points of boundary, for Ralph Basset's manor of Pattingham adjoined Wrotesley on the south and west, and the Abbot's manor of Oaken adjoined Wrotesley on the north. The Fine Roll of this year shews that Hugh de Wrotesley paid half a mark for the latter Assize, and it was doubtless concluded at the Iter of the Justices named. The result was very unfavourable to Hugh, for the boundaries of Oaken have been extended to within a bowshot of the site of the manor house at Wrotesley. The suit between Ralph Basset and Hugh came to no conclusion, for the disputes concerning common of pasture between the manors of Wrotesley and Pattingham were not terminated before the convention made between Ralph, Lord Basset, and Sir William de Wrotesley in 1313.

The suit was probably stopped by the death of Hugh, which took place in 1275 or early in 1276. The Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 4 Edward I [A.D. 1276] states that Hugh de Wrotesley owed half a mark for an Assize, and as no further entry occurs respecting this Fine on any subsequent Roll, it may be assumed it was never paid. A deed at Wrotesley shews that he had been succeeded by his son William before the year 1277.

He left at his death two sons, William and Hugh, and a daughter Amiscia, married to Richard le Boteler of Sandon, a cadet of the house of Boteler of Warrington, co. Lancaster, the hereditary butlers of the Earls of Chester.¹

I conclude this Hugh de Wrotesley was a Knight, for in the latter part of his career he has always the prefix of Dominus to his name.²

Of his younger brothers who were living at this period, Richard de Wrotesley has been already named as a plaintiff in a suit at law against him in 1259 and 1260. On the Pipe Rolls of 51 and 53 Henry III [1267 and 1269] he is again entered as owing half a mark for an Assize. His father had given him land both in Wrotesley and in Waterfall, which he subsequently

¹ Deeds at Wrotesley and at Pendeford.

² Such as "Domino Hugone de Wrotesley," the other form, Hugone Domino de Wrotesley, would not signify he was a Knight, but I have never met with the *Prefix* Dominus given to any but Knights or Rectors of Parishes.

sold,¹ and took up his abode in Bridgenorth. On the Coram Rege Rolls of Easter 54 Henry III and Trinity 55 Henry III, Edelina, the widow of Roger Corbet of Hadley, sued him and many others of the town of Bridgenorth for breaking *vi et armis* into her house and doing damage to the extent of £10.

Henry, another brother, is named in deeds at Wrottesley, and left a son Hugh and two daughters, Margaret and Alice. His father had given to him the mill at Hawkswell, near Patshull, which Henry subsequently sold to Sir William Bagot, the lord of the fee. The son Hugh appears to have taken orders and to be the Hugh de Wrottesley, clericus, named in deeds of this date at Wrottesley.

The daughters came into possession of the lands of their two uncles Richard and Bertram, which they afterwards conveyed to their cousin William de Wrottesley.²

Of Bertram nothing is known except his appearance in a single deed at Wrottesley, which will be given later on. William, the remaining brother, is named in a short abstract of a deed in the Dugdale Collection, which runs as follows :—

Sciانت, etc., quod ego Willelmus filius Willelmi de Wrottesley dedi, etc., Radulpho Purcel, etc. Hiis testibus Domino Roberto de Essindon, Roberto filio suo, Domino Radulpho de Coven, Johanne domino de Bishebury,³ Roberto domino de Pendeford.

The grantee Ralph Purcel [a sub-tenant at Bushbury] and the witnesses all belong to the latter part of the reign of Henry III, and Sir Ralph de Coven was dead before 1262. The following deeds, formerly at Wrottesley, likewise belong to this epoch :—

Sciانت presentes et futuri ego Hugo de Wortteslewe dedi, etc. Hugoni filio, Henrici le Freman de Wortteslewe, unam placeam terre in territorio de Wortteslewe, quod Willelmus filius Odi habuit et tenuit in vita sua que placea jacet inter altam viam jacentem apud Hamton et viam apud Tetinhale. Habendum et tenendum de me et heredibus meis sibi et heredibus suis vel cuicumque fratrum vel sororum suorum dare vel assignare voluerit, libere, quiete et in pace, cum libertate eundi ad dictam terram et redeundi, pro viginti solidos quos mihi dedit per manibus. Reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis, ipse et heredes sui, quatuor denarios ad assensionem domini pro omni servitio seculari et demanda preter duas sectas curie in anno, una scilicet post festum Sancti Michaheli et altera post Pascam per rationabile sumonitione. Ego vero, etc. (clause of warranty). Si vero dictus Hugo vel heredes sui dictam terram alicui vendere vel invadiare voluerint contra voluntatem domini sui, dictus Hugo capitalis dominus vel heredes mei pro omnibus aliis, illam terram prenominatam pro viginti solidos habebimus. Et ut hec mea donatio, etc. Hiis testibus

¹ Deeds at Wrottesley.

² Ibid.

³ Probably a mistake for Bradley, for no Lord of Bushbury of that name is known to have existed.

Willelmo domino de Perton, Johanne domino de Tresel, Willelmo domino de Overton, Willelmo de Caldewelle, Willelmo le fremon de Wortteslewe, Thoma del Wyregis¹ et pluribus aliis.²

Seal, a fleur-de-lys, with the legend, S. Hugonis de Wrotele.

Omnibus Chrispi fidelibus presens scriptum visuris vel auditoris, Alicia relieta Henrici le Phremon de Wrottesleg salutem in domino. Noveritis universitas vestra me omnino relaxasse et pro me et heredibus meis in perpetuum quietelamasse Hugoni de Wrottesleg domino meo et heredibus suis et suis assignatis quibuscunque pro una marca argenti quam mihi dedit per manibus totam illam terram cum pertinentiis mihi vel heredibus meis aliquo modo contingentem in Euehstonesfelde una cum jure et clamio quod habui vel aliquo modo in processu temporis habere potui sine aliquo retenemento Ita quod, etc. Hiis testibus Willelmo de Perton, Radulpho de Bissoburi, Johanne de Tresel, Roberto Buffari, Willelmo Warino, Johanne de Bileston et aliis.³

Seal, an effigy of a man on foot with a sword, and the legend, Sigillum secretum.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Hugo de Wrotteslegh filius Willelmi de Wrotteslegh dedi, etc. Willelmo de Waterfall palmario, totam partem meam terre quam habeo in campo quod vocatur Bothum juxta Crablow quam Yngrith mater mea in liberum maritagium aliquando tenuit, etc. Hiis testibus Willelmo de Chetilton milite, Thoma Meverel de Thruleg, Roberto Shirard de Forda, Willelmo Powtrel et aliis.⁴

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Ricardus filius Willelmi domini quondam de Wrotusleye dedi, etc., Hugoni fratri meo, domino de Wrotusleye totum jus quod habui vel habere potui in quadam placea terre que vocatur Bettebrugge, que se extendit in longitudine ab assarto Willelmi filii Odi usque ad ripam que meta est inter Wrotusleye et Tetenhale, in latitudine a regali via inter Wrotusleye et Wulwenehampton usque ad viam ecclesiasticam inter Wrotusleye et Tetenhale, Habendum, etc., sibi et heredibus suis, etc. Hiis testibus Rogero Rectore ecclesie de Bissoburi, Thoma de Creye, Willelmo filio domini de Wrotusleye, Hugone fratre suo et multis aliis.⁵

Seal destroyed.

¹ The Wergs in Tettenhall.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860.

³ Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860. The first four witnesses were the lords respectively of Perton, Bushbury, Trysull, and Nether Penn. The deed, however, refers to land on the moorlands, near Elkstone, part of the fee of Waterfall, and must have been overlooked when the other deeds were handed over to the purchasers of Butterton and Waterfall.

⁴ Vincent MSS., College of Arms. If Ingrith de Butterton held land in frank marriage, she must have been married in her father's lifetime, and therefore at the date of the suit of 1203 must have been either a wife or a widow. The first witness was the Lord of Cheddleton, and the second, Thomas Meverel, was Lord of Throwley. Both these places are in the neighbourhood of Waterfall.

⁵ Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Henricus filius Willelmi de Wrotesley dedi, etc., domino Willelmo Bagot domino de Patushul et heredibus suis vel assignatis, molendinum meum quod habui de dono Willelmi quondam domini de Wrotesley patris mei situm super rivum de Haukeswel in bosco de Brewode. Tenendum et habendum, etc. Reddendo inde annuatim ipse et heredes sui unum obolum in festo Nativitatis beate Marie ad lumen beate Marie apud Pattushul. Et ego, etc. (clause of warranty). Hiis testibus Domino Radulpho Basset, Hugone de Bolinghale, Philippo de Pres, Philippo de Beckebury, Rabo (*sic*) de Bispeston, Henrico de eadem et multis aliis.¹

Seal destroyed.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Margeria filia Henrici de Wrottesle, in pura virginitate mea relaxavi et quietclamavi pro me et heredibus meis in perpetuum Willelmo filio Hugonis domini de Wrottesle totum jus et clamum (*sic*) quod habui vel habere potui ad quoddam assartum in villa de Wrottesle, quod pater meus quondam tenuit, et ad totam terram et redditum cum bosco et vasto et parte cujusdam molendini in villa de Waterfal quam Ricardus de Wrottesle aliquando tenuit. Ita videlicet quod nec ego nec heredes mei aliquid jus vel clamum de cetero infra feudum de Waterfal exigere vel vindicare poterimus; ut hec mea relaxatio et quieta clamatio rata et stabilis in perpetuum permaneat huic presenti carte sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Radulpho domino de Bissoburi, Roberto de Levinton, Rogero de Baganholt, Benedicto de Boterdon, Philippo clerico de Hildesdale et multis aliis.²

Seal, a fleur-de-lys, with the legend, S. Margerie fil: Henrici.

Sciant presentes et futuri, quod Agnes filia Henrici de Wrottesleye, in pura virginitate mea relaxavi, et quietclamavi pro me et heredibus meis in perpetuum Willelmo filio Hugonis de Wrottesleye et heredibus suis vel assignatis totum jus et clameum quod habui vel habere potui in quatuor bovatis terre cum messuagiis dicte terre pertinentibus in villa de Waterfall et in tribus cotagiis et in quadam placia terre que vocatur Leyis et in sexta parte molendini de Waterfall quas quatuor bovatas terre cum messuagiis predictis, Ricardus et Bertremius filii Willelmi quondam domini de Wrottesleye de dono ejusdem Willelmi patris eorum habuerunt, et totum jus et clameum quod habui vel habere potui in quodam assarto in Wrottesleye quod Henricus pater meus quondam tenuit. Ita videlicet, etc. Hiis testibus Henrico de Codeshale, Rogero fratre de Henrico, Adamo filio Nicholai de Halcken (Oaken) Willelmo Gilbert de Codeshale, Paulino de Bilbrobra (Billbrook) et multis aliis.³

¹ ? Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860. The first witness, Ralph Basset of Drayton, was killed at the battle of Evesham in 1265. He was Lord of Pattingham, near Patshul, and the other witnesses were all near neighbours of Sir William Bagot, in Shropshire. The deed shows that Hawkwell formed part of the old Forest of Brewode, which had been disafforested by King John, and was originally no part of the fee of Patshull.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860.

³ From copies of Butterdon deeds at Wrottesley—the witnesses are all freeholders in Codshall, Oaken or Billbrook.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Alicia filia Willelmi quondam domini de Wroteslega in ligia potestate et viduitate mea dedi, concessi, et hae presente carta mea confirmavi Hugoni filio meo unam placeam terre de curtilagio meo in villa de Wroteslega de super edificandam prout includitur et per metas et divisas continetur et unam placeam more que vocatur le oldehoc. Tenendum et habendum de me et heredibus meis sibi et heredibus suis de corpore suo procreatis libere et quiete bene et in pace cum omnibus suis pertinentiis, libertatibus, comunis et eysiamendis ad dictum tenementum pertinentibus in villa et extra, volo insuper et concedo quod dictus Hugo et heredes sui habeant liberum egressum et regressum ad fontem in parroco meo, reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis ipse et heredes sui unum denarium ad annunciationem beate Marie pro omni servitio seculari exactione et demanda mihi et heredibus meis pertinente. Et si ita contingat quod dictus Hugo sine herede de corpore suo obierit, volo et concedo quod Johannes frater dieti Hugonis et heredes sui dictum tenementum habeant et teneant sine contradictione mei vel heredum meorum inperpetuum. Ego vero Alicia, etc. (*clause of warranty*). In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Hugone domino de Wroteslega, Willelmo domino de Pertun, Adar (*sic*) de Northwode, Rogero de Wodewelle, Ada de Gosewrlong, Thoma de Witheg, Willelmo filio Elye et multis aliis.¹

Vaginal seal, a crescent between two stars, with the legend, S. Alicie le Fremon.

The following deeds are taken from the originals in the possession of the late Mr. Fowler Butler, of Pendeford:—

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Amiscia filia Hugonis de Wroteslega in pura et ligia viduitate mea, dedi, concessi, et hac carta mea confirmavi Hugoni fratri meo pro servitio suo totum illud tenementum in villa de Pendeford quod Hugo pater meus cum me dedit Ricardo le Boteler in liberum maritagium una cum Hugone nativo meo qui dictum tenementum tenet et cum tota sequela sua. Habendum et tenendum de me, etc., sibi et heredibus suis, etc. Reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis unam rosam die beati Johannis Baptiste pro omni servitio seculari exactione, etc. Ego vero (*clause of warranty*). Hiis testibus Radulpho domino de Bissobury, Johanne domino de Pendeford, Johanne de Englinton, Roberto de Somerford, Johanne de Mollesley, Roberto de Northwode, Ada de la lowe et aliis.

Seal, a female figure sitting on a throne crowned, with a sceptre in her hand.

By a deed of later date, Hugh, son of Hugh de Wrotesley, gave his native Hugh de Rowley and the half virgate of land held by him in Pendeford, to Nicholas, the Prior, and to the House of St. Thomas the Martyr, near Stafford, in pure and perpetual alms. This deed was confirmed by William, Lord of Wrotesley. (Original deeds at Pendeford, copied by me in 1861).

¹ Original deed at Wrotesley, 1860. The last three witnesses were Jurors of the Liberty of Tettenhall at the Assizes of 1272. William, son of Elias, was son of Elias, the Canon of Tettenhall, and was Bailiff of the King's manor of Tettenhall in 1272. (Staffordshire Assize Roll, 56 Henry III.)

ARMS OF SIR HUGH DE WROTTESELEY.

On the dexter side. For Wrottesley :—

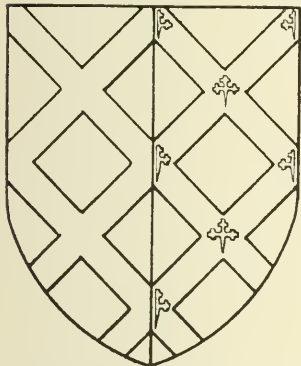
A fret, tinctures unknown, taken from seals at Wrottesley.

On the sinister side. For Perton of Perton, co. Stafford :—

Argent on a chevron, gules, three pears pendant, or.

Taken from seals and the coat of Perton, formerly in Trysull Church, copied by Huntbach.

SIR WILLIAM DE WROTTESELEY, A.D. 1276 TO A.D. 1313.



It is a testimony to the revival of letters during the reign of Henry III, that at the period of the accession of this William to his patrimony, both he and his neighbour, John Giffard of Chillington, heads of knightly families, bore the prefix of "Magister," a title which is supposed to have designated, at this period, the graduate of an University.

He must have been in possession before February, 1278, for at that time he granted a lease of land in Boterton to Henry, son of Alan de Boterton, for a term of twenty-one years, the term to commence at the Feast of the Purification, 1277 [2 February, 1278].¹ In 1309, when he gave evidence at the proof of age of Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Richard de Loges of Rodbaston, he described himself as sixty years of age, but he would probably have underrated his age at this period of life.

He is shewn to be son of Hugh de Wrottesley by the deeds at Wrottesley, the Forest Pleas of 1271, the proceedings at the proof of age of Edmund, the Baron of Stafford, in 22 Edward I, and by suits on the "de Banco" Rolls of Easter, 12 Edward I, and of Trinity, 9 Edward II. This array of authorities from the Public Records will give the reader an idea of the value of these records in the elucidation of family history.

In 11 Edward I [A.D. 1283] he was the foreman of the jury empannelled to enquire into the value of the lands of his cousin, William de Perton, who had lately died and held Perton in capite from the Crown.² In the following year, a suit on the

¹ Copies of Buttertton deeds at Wrottesley. As the year commenced on the 25 March at this period, the date named in the deed would be 2 February 1278, according to our present method of computation.

² Inq. p.m. 11 Edward I, No. 101.

"de Banco" Roll of Easter term¹ gives us the name of his mother, which is not mentioned in the deed quoted from the Ashmole Collection at page 40.

The Roll states that Idonia, formerly wife of Hugh de Wrottesley, sued John le Botiler for a messuage and half a virgate of land in Perton, and she sued William del Hulle of Lappeley for the moiety of a messuage and one-fourth of a virgate of land, and Robert Laweles for the moiety of a messuage and one-fourth of a virgate of land in the same vill, which she claimed as her right and "maritagium," and in which the defendants had no entry except through Amice, daughter of Hugh de Wrottesley, to whom the said Hugh had demised the tenements, and to which she could not object during his lifetime. The defendants appeared, and John called to warranty William, son of Hugh de Wrottesley, and William del Hulle stated that he held the tenement claimed against him, for his life, by a demise of the said John le Botiler, son and heir of Amice, and he called him to warranty; and Robert as regarded the tenements claimed against him, called to warranty the said John, son and heir of Amice, and stated that the tenements were the right and "maritagium" of Amice, and that the said Amice, together with her husband, had demised them to him, and therefore he called to warranty John, the son and heir of Amice. The Sheriff was therefore commanded to summon the said John for a month from Michaelmas. The Roll for Michaelmas term is so much decayed that very little of it can be deciphered, and no further notice of the suit has been discovered. It shews, however, that Hugh de Wrottesley had given to his daughter Amice, on her marriage with Richard le Botiler, her mother's marriage portion in Perton, in addition to the half virgate of land in Pendeford mentioned in the deeds already printed.

Kirby's Quest, the well known Feodary of this reign, and the date of which is approximately 1284, has this notice of his tenure at Wrottesley. *Wrotkesley. Willelmus de Wrotkesley tenet per socagium de Abbate de Evesham, et idem Abbas de Nicholao Barone de Stafford et idem Baro de Rege.*" The question of the nature of the tenure of Wrottesley will be discussed in a future page. A tenure by socage was so advantageous to the tenant, the latter would be certain to claim it, if he had any pretext for doing so, and the pretext in the case of Wrottesley, would be the chief rent of two marks payable to the Abbey.²

¹ De Banco Roll, Easter term, 12 Edward I, m. 73, dorso.

² As a matter of fact, however, this formed no criterion; for many military fiefs paid a chief rent to the superior lord, notably the two cases of King's Bromley and Wednesbury, both of which though paying chief rents of £4 to the King, were always treated as military fiefs. The tenant of Wednesbury, like William de Wrottesley, claimed a socage tenure, when the Feodary was compiled, and it was allowed to him. Later records, however, shew that this claim was disallowed by the Exchequer authorities.

Two years later, viz., in January, 1286, Pleas of the Forest were held at Stafford before Roger Lestraunge and other Justiciaries. Amongst other presentments, the Swanimote of Kinfar returned that William de Wrottesleye had come into the Forest on the day of St. Alphege, 56 Henry III [19 April 1272], and had driven game out of the Forest with greyhounds, and had taken the venison to his house at Wrottesleye. William appeared, and asked that a verdict might be given by the Reguardors of the Forest as well as by the Verderers and Foresters, and he gave 20s. for the said Inquisition, for which Thomas de Creye of Cumptun, and Robert Buffary of Penne were his sureties. The Foresters, Verderers and Reguardors found that the said William was guilty. He was therefore committed to prison, and was afterwards released for a fine of 20s., for which Walter de Bisshebury and Thomas de Engelton were his sureties.

The function of the Justices in Eyre of the Forest was not to try offenders against the Forest laws, but to fix the fines and punishments of those who had been previously convicted at the Swanimote, which was the Court of the Forest, presided over by the Chief Warden. William de Wrottesley obtained another trial on the payment of a fine of 20s., but this is the only instance of the rehearing of a case before the Justices in Eyre which I have met with. The pleas of the Forest of this date were not conducted in a harsh or vindictive spirit; the fine of 20s. inflicted in this case would be about equivalent to one of £20 at the present time.

Another presentment at the same Iter, states that William de Wrottesley, Hugh his brother, Nicholas of the Lude, Thomas, his brother, and one William, son of Alice of Penne, came into Kinver forest, viz., into the Putlesleye wood, on the Friday before the Feast of St. James, 56 Henry III [22 July, 1272], with bows and arrows, and shot at a stag and killed it, and they carried the venison to the house of Alditha de la Lude, who is now dead, and they there divided the venison between them; and William de Wrottesleye, Nicholas and Thomas appeared, and were committed to prison, and William de Wrottesleye became surety to produce his brother Hugh before the Justices on the Sunday after the Feast of St. Gregory; William, son of Alice, did not appear and could not be found. He was therefore to be "*exigatur*."¹

Hugh afterwards appeared and was committed to prison. and William, son of Alice, afterwards surrendered, and was pardoned because of his poverty. Nicholas was fined 20s. for which William de Penne of Lutteleye and Richard de Seysdon

¹ To be "*exigatur*" is to be called at five consecutive County Courts, and if the defendant did not appear he was outlawed.

were sureties, and Thomas was fined 10s., for which Nicholas de la Lude and William de la Penne were sureties. Hugh was fined half a mark, for which Ralph de Bisheburi and William de Wrottesleye were sureties. The fine of the latter is not mentioned.¹

Besides his troubles on account of the Forest, William de Wrottesley was involved in two suits of law at this period. In the first of them, Magister Thomas de Sodington and three other Justices were appointed to take an assize of novel disseisin which William de Wrotteslegh and Petronilla, his wife, arraigned against Ralph Folshouk and others respecting tenements in Blore near Okore (Okeover) and Grendon, near Watervale (Grindon near Waterfall).²

In the other suit, Benedict de Boterdon, William de Wrotteslegh, and William Poutrel give half a mark to have an assize taken before the same Justices.³

The small fragment that is left of the Assize Roll of this year contains no notice of these suits. In the first of them William de Wrottesley was evidently suing respecting land he had obtained in marriage with his wife Petronilla, and we obtain from it some clue to her identity. Blore and Grindon on the Moors was held at this date by a younger branch of the house of Audley, and I conclude, therefore, that William was married to a daughter of John de Audley of Blore, who had died *circa* 1280.

At the Iter of the Justices in Staffordshire of 21 Edward I (1293), most of the proceedings of which have been printed in vol. vii of the Staffordshire Collections, or in the Quo Warranto Pleas, William de Wrottesley's name occurs frequently as a witness both in civil and criminal causes. An endorsement on the Rolls shews that he was one of the Coroners of the County.

In the following year, he was one of the witnesses and a juror (for at this date they were synonymous) upon the Inquisition to prove the age of Edmund, son and heir of Nicholas, Baron of Stafford. The proceedings are curious, but too long to produce in full. William de Wrottesley, being called, and examined, stated that he agreed with what Sir Hugh de Weston (the previous witness) had said with respect to the day and place of the birth of Edmund, and with his reasons for recollecting it, and he further stated that some of the servants of the Baron of Stafford were journeying on the morrow of the birth of the said Edmund, from Madeley to Weston, and had come to the house of Hugh de Wrottesley, his father, and had there announced the birth of the Baron's son and heir.

¹ Pleas of the Forest, 14 Edward I, printed in vol. v, of Staffordshire Collections, part 1.

² Patent Roll, 14 Edward I, m. 5, dorso.

³ Fine Roll, 14 Edward I, m. 9.

Sir Hugh de Weston's deposition was to the effect that Edmund was born on the Feast of St. Edith (16 Sept.) next after the Iter of Ralph de Hengham in Salop, and that shortly after the birth of the said Edmund, Nicholas, the Baron of Stafford, had come to his house at Weston, and informed him that he had a son.¹

In 1297, William Wither, Ralph de Shirley, and William de Wrottesley, acting jointly as King's Eschaetors under a special commission, returned into the Chancery particulars of the lands which had been held by Edmund, the King's brother, in the Midland Counties. Prince Edmund had died seised under the gift of his father Henry III of the immense estates of Robert de Ferrers Earl of Derby, of the ancient Earls of Leicester, of the Honor of Lancaster, and a large part of the Earldom of Chester. Like Frankenstein, Henry III had raised a monster, who proved fatal to his posterity, for Edmund was the founder of the house of Lancaster, which subsequently usurped the throne. The Inquisition made by these three knights is one of the fullest and most detailed of any now extant in the Record Office.

In 1298, William de Wrottesley and John de Perton, by an indented deed, brought to a close dissensions of long standing respecting the boundary between their respective manors.

The preamble to the deed recites, that whereas various contentions had arisen between them on account of divers unknown boundaries and meres between the lands of the said William and John, the strife had been finally appeased in this form, namely, that the aforesaid William and John, by unanimous consent, had conceded and established the bounds and meres underwritten, viz., from the oak tree, called Le Tyndede Mere Oke, which is the boundary between Ralph Basset, and the said William and John, descending as far as Le Mere Way, and descending Le Mere Way as far as the nearest corner of the assart of Geoffrey Le Crouthour towards the village of Wrottesle, and from the said corner, descending by the ditch as far as a certain oak tree, and from the said oak tree, descending by the new ditch (*novum fossatum*) as had been perambulated, as far as the corner of Wodewalle meadow, and from the said corner by the same ditch, as far as the opposite corner of the assart of Hugh de Wrottesle, which is called Cronemor, and from the said corner ascending by the ditch of the same assart, as far as the assart of William de Wrottesle, and from the said assart, ascending by the ditch of the same, as far as the corner of the assart of William de la Hale, which is called Grenhul.²

¹ Inquisition, 22 Edward I, No. 152. As Wrottesley does not lie on the road between Madeley and Weston, it would appear that some of the Baron's servants had missed the turn to the left out of the high road, and, following the latter, had found themselves after dark at Wrottesley, seven miles beyond their destination.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860.

This deed is in Latin, but the universal use of the French preposition, as a prefix to the names of places and persons, shews that French was still the language of the upper classes at this period. Of the boundaries named, Cronemore, the Mere Oak, and the Greenhills still exist as local names. This deed is the earliest of those formerly at Wrottesley, which had an armorial seal appended to it. The seal of William de Wrottesley bears the fret, the well-known insignia of the Verdens, but at the date it was engraved he was not a Knight, and the fret fills up the whole circle of the seal, with the legend, S. Willi de Wrotele, round it. At a later date he bore the same device on a shield.¹

In the same year, viz., A.D. 1298, the suit respecting the Manor of Butterton was again revived. An entry on the Patent Roll of 26 Edward I, states that Adam de Crokedayk and William Inge were assigned to take an Assize of Novel Disseisin, which William de Wrottesleye, Benedict de Boterdon, and William Poutrel had arraigned against Henry de Bray and others respecting tenements in Boterdon, co. Stafford. The trial took place before the above Justices in the following year, and the record of it has fortunately been preserved. It states that "An Assize came to return a verdict, whether Henry de Bray, William le Rider, and three others named, had unjustly disseised William de Wrottesleye, Benedict de Boterdon, and William Poutrel of their freehold in Boterdon, viz., of twenty acres of heath."

Henry de Bray appeared in person, and stated that he was the capital lord of Boterdon, and the plaintiffs held their tenements of him, and the tenement in dispute was part of the waste of the vill, appurtenant to the demesne, and he prayed for judgment whether an assize would lie, unless the plaintiffs could shew some special title to the waste. The plaintiffs pleaded that their ancestors had held the entire Manor of Boterdon, and which manor they held at the present time, and by reason of which they were seised of the said heath until the defendants had unjustly disseised them. Henry de Bray replied that in the time of King John, viz., in the fifth year of his reign, a Fine had been levied at Lichfield between one Henry de Denestone, plaintiff (whose status he held), and a certain William son of Eda, Ingrith sister of Eda, Roger Poutrel and Margery his wife, and Hawyse de Waterfale, tenants of fourteen bovates of land in Boterdon, of the freehold formerly belonging to Robert de Waterfall, the father of the said Eda, Ingrith, Margery, and

¹ See seal of his widow Katharine attached to deed dated 1313. He appears to have been knighted in the course of this year, for in a Perton deed of this date he takes precedence in the testing clause of Ralph de Bissobury and John de Perton, both of whom occur as knights of Great Assize on the Assize Roll of 21 Edward I (1194).

Hawyse, and ancestor of the said William, Benedict, and William, in which Fine it was contained that William son of Eda, Ingrith and the others named held the said tenements of Henry de Denestone, and he produced the Fine, in which there was no mention of a manor, but of bovates of land only. As the plaintiffs could shew no special title to the waste, a verdict was given in favour of William de Bray, and the plaintiffs were *in misericordia* for a false claim. William de Wrottesley's Fine was 40d., and the others paid 20d. each.¹

Henry de Bray was a formidable opponent in a Court of Law, for he was the King's Eschaetor for all England citra Trent, and held in addition the important and lucrative office of Justiciary of the Pleas of the Jews. Ten years before the date of this action, he had been accused of malversation of office, but had made his peace by the payment of a heavy fine. The Dunstable Chronicle, speaking of the popular clamour against the Judges, says of him, "*De Magistro Henrico de Bray Eschaetore et Justiciario Judcorum, dicebantur enormia, sed per redemptionem pacem fecit.*"²

It will be seen that the suit, although nominally for twenty acres of heath only, really involved the title to the manor. Henry de Bray derived his right by purchase from Robert de Okovere and Margaret his wife,³ the latter being probably the representative of Henry de Denestone.

The Patent Roll of 29 Edward I shews that William de Wrottesley and his two coparceners raised the question again by another writ, at assizes held at Penkridge in the following year, and obtained a verdict in their favour; it states that William Inge and R. de Suthcotes were assigned to take the verdict of twenty-four knights in a suit which Magister Henry de Bray had arraigned against Benedict de Boterdon, William de Wrottesley and William Poutrel, to convict (of a false judgment) the jury who took the assize of novel disseisin which had been summoned between the same Benedict, William, and William, and the aforesaid Henry and Roger de Bagenholt, which had been taken before Thomas de Sodington, Walter de Hopton, Reginald de Legh, and Hugh de Cave, at Pencrich respecting tenements at Boterdon.⁴ The proceedings of these assizes are not extant, but it may be presumed that the final result was favourable to the representatives of Robert de Waterfall, for William de Wrottesley subsequently purchased the shares of the

¹ Staffordshire Assize Roll, 27 Edward I, m. 1. See note at p. 41.

² He commenced life as Bailiff to the Barons of Verdon, at Alton, and had been imprisoned by John de Verdon for alleged malpractices in this office. See a curious trial in Banco, 5 Edward I, at p. 81, vol. vi, of Staffordshire Collections, where he accuses the Baron of extorting a deed from him by imprisonment.

³ Pedes Finium, Staffordshire, 11 Edward I.

⁴ Rot. Pat., 29 Edward I, m. 12, dorso.

other coparceners, and his grandson Hugh de Wrottesley dealt with the property under the designation of the manor of Boterdon.¹

In order to complete the story of the manor of Butters-ton-on-the-moors, it has been necessary to outstrip some of the events of William de Wrottesley's life. In 28 Edward I, *i.e.* in the year 1300, he was appointed by Letters Patent one of three Justices of County Stafford for the due observance of Magna Charta and the Charter of the Forests. In this way his name becomes associated with one of the great constitutional landmarks of English history.

The general discontent produced by the arbitrary conduct of the King, and the heavy burdens thrown upon all classes for the support of the King's warlike policy, culminated at length into open resistance to the Royal authority, at the period of the proposed expedition to Flanders in 1297. A large body of the Barons refused to accompany the King, on the ground that they were not bound to serve him beyond the seas, and they shortly afterwards delivered to him a formal remonstrance complaining of the violation of Magna Charta and of the Charter of the Forests, and demanding a confirmation of the two Charters, and a renunciation of the King's claim to impose aids and tallages without the consent of Parliament. The dissensions between the King and his subjects continued for nearly three years, but the firm attitude assumed by the Barons, and the necessities of the King's position at length prevailed, and in the twenty-eighth year of his reign, he affixed the Great Seal of England to an absolute confirmation of the Great and Lesser Charters without any reservation of the Royal prerogative.²

The historian Hume goes very fully into these transactions, following closely the text of Walter Hemingford's chronicle, but the first writer who showed a full appreciation of their importance was Hallam, who in his Constitutional History styles the Confirmation of the Charters by Edward I, one of the pillars of the English Constitution.

The first Statute, being issued in the form of a charter, was sealed with the Great Seal at Ghent in Flanders on 25 November in the twenty-fifth year of his reign. Complaints, however, having been made that the Charter was not observed, an additional Act known as the "Articuli super chartas" was passed in 28 Edward I. In these additional articles the King remits all his anger against Humphrey de Bohun, the Constable, Roger Bigod, the Marshal, and all the other Earls, Barons, Knights, and tenants of land to the yearly value of £20, who

¹ Rot. Pat., 29 Edward I, m. 12, dorso.

² See on this subject Lingard, Hume, Hallam and Stubbs.

had not obeyed his summons to pass over into Flanders, and further renounced for himself and his heirs for ever, all claim to take aids and tallages without the assent of the whole realm (*par commun assent de tut le royeume*), saving the ancient aids, and prises due and accustomed. These would be the aids such as Scutage, etc., due by the Feudal Law and the prises for the King's Household and Royal Fortresses. The Statute further ordained that the three Knights chosen in each County, for the observance of the Charters, should likewise be charged with the maintenance of the additional articles, or, to use the words of the Statute, "*et a cet estatut garder e mentenir, soient chargez les trois chivalers qui sont assignez parmi les contez, pur adrester les choses fetes contre les Grauntz Chatres, et de ceo eient garant.*"

In pursuance of these Statutes, a close writ was directed to the Sheriff of Staffordshire dated 27 March 1300, commanding him to cause three Knights of the County to be elected, who were to appear before the King and Council at York, on the Morrow of the Ascension (20 May) to perform whatsoever should be enjoined of them for the better performance of the two Charters.¹

By Letters Patent dated from St. Edmunds on 10 May following, William de Stafford, Robert de Pype and William de Wrottesley were appointed Justiciaries for the due observance of the articles contained in the Great Charter and the Charter of Winchester within the County of Stafford, and to hear and determine all pleas and complaints arising thereon.²

The Statute of Winchester had been enacted in 1285 for the better security of the subject, and for the more prompt pursuit and capture of felons. Under this Statute the Hundred first became answerable for damages sustained by robberies and breaches of the peace. The two fellow Justices of Sir William de Wrottesley were both men of importance in the County. William de Stafford was lord of Sandon and Bramshall, and one of the coparceners of the Cheshire Barony of de Maubanc. Robert de Pype was the lord of Pype Rydeware, Wall, and other places in Staffordshire, and his name appears on most of the writs of military summons of this reign. He was the grandfather of Sir James Pype, a famous warrior mentioned in the pages of Froissart.

Shortly after this date, William de Wrottesley formed an alliance of some importance by marrying, for a second wife, Katherine, the daughter of John Lestraunge, the Baron of Knockin. She had previously been married to Sir Alan de Glazeley, a Shropshire Knight, and was left a widow in 1302.³

¹ Rot. Claus., 28 Edward I, m. 11.

² Rot. Pat., 28 Edward I, m. 14.

³ Eyton's Shropshire, Deeds at Wrottesley, and De Banco Roll, Mich., 2 Edward III, m. 342 dorso.

At Whitsuntide 1306 (22 May) his eldest son William was knighted with great solemnity before the High Altar of Westminster, with Edward Prince of Wales, and 267 others. Ashmole in his introduction to the History of the Garter, says that "King Edward I to adorn the splendour of his Court and augment the glory of his intended expedition into Scotland, at Whitsuntide, in the thirty-fourth year of his reign, begirt Edward of Carnarvon, his eldest son, with the military belt, and this young prince, immediately afterwards at the High Altar in Westminster Abbey, conferred the same honour upon near 300 gentlemen, the sons of Earls, Barons, and Knights. The habits, equipage and ceremonies of which grand solemnity being already transcribed at large out of Matthew of Westminster, both by Mr. Selden and Mr. Camden, we shall thereunto refer our reader." He then proceeds, "out of memory of these noble persons, with such as are descended from them," to give a catalogue of their names taken from the Wardrobe Accounts of that year. From this list, it appears that the following members of Staffordshire families were knighted upon this occasion:—

William de Birmingham	Thomas de Brompton
John de Weston	Ralph Basset
Ralph Bagot	John de Somery
Peter de Gresley	William de Wrottesley
Roger de Somerville	John de Harcourt, and
William Trussell	William de Handsacre. ¹

A writ on the Close Roll of 34 Edward I, dated 6 April, commands the Sheriffs of Counties to proclaim throughout their Bailiwicks that all who wish to be made Knights were to repair to London before Whitsuntide to receive the vestments required in such case, which will be delivered to them of the King's gift in order that they may take the degree of knighthood on that day.²

It may, perhaps, interest the lady readers who may glance at these pages if I give a description of the dress of William de Wrottesley on this occasion. The wardrobe account says:—*"Willelmo de Wrotlesle, facto milite. ad coyntesium suum ii pannos de arista, eidem ad culcitram suam, iii pannos purpres."*³

¹ Many others who afterwards played an important part in the transactions of the following reign were knighted on the same occasion, amongst these were Piers de Gavaston, Roger de Mortimer, Hugh le Despencer the younger, William de Montagu, Peter de Mauley, and John de Warenne.

² Rot. Claus, 34 Edward I, m. 16, dorso.

³ Exchequer Accounts, Wardrobe $\frac{362}{260}$. Ralph Bagot and Peter de Gresley are the ancestors of the present Lord Bagot and of Sir Robert Gresley of Drakelow. As the ceremonial included the Bath, as well as the Vigil, and a distinctive Badge was given to each Knight, many antiquaries, including Camden, Dugdale and others, designate the Knights made on this occasion as the original Knights of the Bath.

The cointise, according to Ducange, was a robe worn by the upper classes. The culcitra was a short dress, probably a tunic, and is described by Ducange as a courtpoint. All the Knights were supplied with the cointise and the courtpoint, but the colours varied.

By the Feudal law, the King was entitled to an "Aid" upon the occasion of the Knighthood of his eldest son, and Parliament granted to him in this year the thirtieth of all moveables in Counties and the twentieth of the same in Cities and Boroughs. On 5 April, 34 Edward I (1306), a close writ addressed to the Sheriffs of Counties states that the King having determined that his eldest son Edward shall be made a Knight at Whitsuntide, on which occasion an aid was due to the Crown, the Sheriff was ordered to cause two Knights to be elected in his County, and two citizens and two burgesses from each City and Borough, who were to come before the King and Council at Westminster on the Morrow of the Holy Trinity, to treat concerning the said aid. By Letters Patent dated from Beverley on the following 22 July, William de Stafford and William de Wrotesley were appointed to assess and collect this aid in co. Stafford. The collectors were ordered to pay the money into the Treasury in three equal instalments, the latest instalment to be paid on the Morrow of All Souls (3 Nov. 1307), but the accounts were not finally closed till six years had elapsed. On the Pipe Roll of 7 Edward II (1313), William de Stafford and William de Wrotesley render account of a sum of £11 0s. 1½d., the residue of the tax which remained due at that date.

In 1309 William de Wrotesley was the first witness called to prove the age of Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Sir Richard de Loges of Rodbaston, the hereditary Forester of Cannock. He gave his age at sixty, and stated that Elizabeth was born at Newenton (Newton in Blithfield), on the Sunday the Feast of Pentecost, 21 Edward I (17 May 1293), and was baptized the same day in the church of the Blessed Peter of . . . (name illegible), and he remembered the circumstance, because he was a Coroner of the King in the County of Stafford, and had been summoned to Blithfield in consequence of a certain accident (*pro quodam infortunio*), and he was present at Blithfield performing the office of Coroner at that time. Amongst the other witnesses called were Sir John de Herouville, Kt., who gave his age at seventy; and Robert Buffry of Penn. Robert stated he remembered the date of Elizabeth's birth, because his brother William was killed . . . perhaps the *infortunium* above-mentioned, but the rest of the sentence is illegible, owing to the decay of the parchment.¹ A feudal heiress became of age at fifteen, as she was then marriageable.

¹ Miscellanea Roll, Tower Records, No. 175.

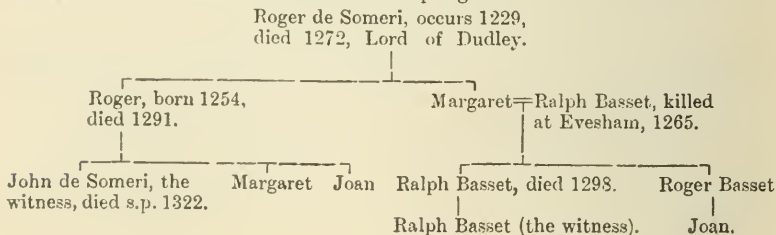
In 1313 William de Wrottesley and Henry de Cresswall, acting as Sub-sheriffs for Hugh de Audley, returned into Chancery the names of the landowners in Staffordshire who possessed a clear £40 a year in lands or rents; and who were not yet Knights. The original document is still in the Record Office, but the seals have unfortunately been destroyed. After the termination of the dispute between the King and his Barons in 1300, the limit of £40 a year had been fixed at which Knighthood was compulsory, and this remained in force until the abolition of Feudal burdens and customs at the restoration of King Charles II.

In the same year his eldest son William was married to Joan, the daughter of Sir Roger Basset, and cousin to Ralph Basset, the Baron of Drayton.

By deed dated from Wrottesley, on Palm Sunday, 6 Edward II. (8 April 1313), William de Wrottesley conveyed to his son and heir William, and Joan his wife, the daughter of Roger Basset, and to the heirs of their bodies, all his lands and tenements upon the moors at Boterdon, Waterfall, Grindon and Hildesdale, reserving to himself a rent of eight marks annually. This deed is witnessed by John de Somery, the Baron of Dudley, and by Ralph Basset of Drayton, Sir Henry de Cresswall, Kt., John de Ipstones and William Shirard. The first two witnesses were kinsmen of the bride.¹

There is a flavour of romance in the marriage of William to Joan Basset, for the grandfather of the bride, Ralph Basset, the Baron of Drayton, had been killed at Evesham, fighting on the side of Simon de Montfort; Hugh, the grandfather of William de Wrottesley, had fought on the same side, and the lands of both had been confiscated. Ralph Basset, however, had married Margaret the daughter of Roger de Someri, the Baron of Dudley, who had been a firm supporter of the King, and at his intercession the King had assigned Pattingham to the widow of Ralph for her support. This manor immediately adjoins Wrottesley, and the community of misfortune and interest would be likely to lead to an intimacy between the two families.

¹ From copies of Butterdon deeds at Wrottesley. The relationship of Joan to these witnesses will be best shown in the form of a pedigree.



As Roger Basset was a distinguished knight of the reign of Edward I, and left no male issue, and his arms were subsequently assumed by his grandson Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, I propose to make a short digression here in order to note down a few facts respecting him.

In 1276 he was residing at Pattingham, for in that year he sued in Banco Richard Teveray and fourteen others for an attack upon him at that place, and taking by force a sword, ten marks in money, silver spoons, and other articles. Although he is not to be found on any existing Basset pedigree, there can be doubt, from the fact of his being styled Roger Basset of Drayton, that he was a member of that branch of the Bassets, and a younger son of Ralph Basset of Drayton, and of Margaret daughter of Roger de Someri, from whom he derived the name of Roger.

He must have been a distinguished man-at-arms, for there are few names which occur more frequently on the Rolls of Protections and lists of Military Summons of the reign of Edward I. In 10 Edward I, and again in 13 Edward I, he had letters of protection whilst serving in Wales. In 22 Edward I he had the same whilst serving in Gascony in the retinue of William Lord Latimer. In 25 Edward I he was summoned to serve the King in Flanders, and took out letters of protection the same year. In the following year, under the name of Roger Basset of Drayton, he renewed his letters of protection, being still in Flanders in the King's service, and a writ respiting his debts to the Crown was issued to the Sheriffs of the Counties of Somerset and Dorset. This identifies him with the Roger Basset who was returned in 28 Edward I as holding lands and rents in these two counties of the yearly value of £40 and upwards. In the same year, he was summoned to serve the King in Scotland with horses and arms, and took out letters of protection while engaged in that service. In the following year he was again summoned for the same service, and took out letters of protection under the name of Roger Basset of Drayton. His name also occurs on the famous Roll of Arms of this reign taken from the Cottonian MS. Caligula, A. 18, which has been printed amongst the Writs of Military Summons by the Record Commissioners. This Roll is headed "*Ce sont les noms et les arms a banerez de Engleterre,*" and there is some reason to believe that the original list contained only the names of Bannerets, and that other names have been subsequently added. The arms of Roger Basset are thus described on the original Roll, "*de or, a iii peuz de sable, a un quarter dermyne.*"

According to Hutchins' History of Dorsetshire, Ralph Basset of Drayton held a Knight's Fee in Upper Melcombe, of the Earl of Warwick, and Richard de Amundeville held a Knight's Fee in Upper Melcombe in 1346, of Ralph Basset, which had been formerly held by Roger Basset. It seems clear from this that

the male line of Roger had failed,¹ and between the years 1333 and 1349, Sir Hugh Wrottesley assumed his arms in place of the Verdon fret, which had been previously borne by the family.

William de Wrottesley took advantage of the presence of Ralph Basset at the marriage festivities of his son to bring to a close a long-standing dispute concerning the common of pasture between the two manors of Wrottesley and Pattingham. This question which had remained in abeyance since the death of Hugh de Wrottesley in 1276 appears to have produced much ill-feeling and even bloodshed between the tenants of the two manors, for at the Staffordshire assizes of A.D. 1306, the jury of Seisdon presented that William Orldrydge of Wrottesley had killed Roger atte More of Pattingham, and had fled from justice.

The agreement between Ralph, Lord Basset, and William de Wrottesley is dated from Drayton on the Friday after the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, 6 Edward II (6 April, 1313), and is witnessed by Sir John de Somery, Sir William Bagot, Sir William de Stafford, Sir William de Mere, and John de Perton.²

As this agreement was made only two days before the date of Sir William's settlement on his son, the marriage must have taken place at Drayton Basset.

William de Wrottesley survived the marriage of his son by a few months only, for on the 4 October following, the Lady Katharine, who styles herself formerly wife of Sir William de Wrottesley, Knight, covenants with William, his son, respecting her dower. He must have lived to a considerable age, for he had been nearly forty years in possession of his inheritance.

He left a son William, who succeeded him, and a daughter, Rosea, married to William de Elmedon of Pilatonhale. These are the only two children specifically named in deeds at Wrottesley, but it is probable that a Richard, a John, and an Adam mentioned in some legal proceedings of 1320, which will appear later on, were sons of this William de Wrottesley.³

He seems to have been a man of more than average capacity. At the period of his succession in 1275, the fortunes of his house

¹ The grants of manors in fee to younger sons were almost invariably limited to their male issue.

² Original deed at Wrottesley 1860.

³ At the Pleas of the Crown held at Chester in 11 Edward III, a "John de Thiknes filius Willelmi de Wrotteslegh" was outlawed with many other persons for non-appearance in Court to answer for divers misdemeanors. In this Record the word "Johannes" has been apparently omitted, and it should run "Johannes de Thiknes, Johannes filius Willelmi de Wrotteslegh," Chester Pleas, 11 Edward III.

were at a very low ebb. The waste and destruction caused by the Civil War, added to the heavy redemption paid under the provisions of the Dictum of Kenilworth, had greatly impaired the estate inherited from his father. In the course of his career he not only recovered all the alienations made to younger branches of the family, but further augmented his property by purchases of land in Butterton, Waterfall, and other places.

Of the civil offices under the Crown usually filled by Knights of the Shire, there were few which were not held at various times by him. He acted as Sheriff, Coroner, Escheator, assessor and collector of a subsidy voted by Parliament, and was finally elected by the County to the difficult and invidious office of a Justiciary, under an Act of Parliament passed to check the Royal Prerogative. Twice married himself into Baronial houses, he lived to see his eldest son a Knight, and married to a member of a third Baronial house, and his family raised considerably in the scale of local importance and prosperity.

Of younger members of the family whose names occur during the lifetime of this William, his brother Hugh has been already mentioned on more than one occasion. His name also occurs in some curious proceedings which took place during the hearing of the Quo Warranto Pleas at Bridgenorth in 1291. Richard Daumas, a Shropshire Knight, was attached for contempt of Court in throwing down the King's writ in the church of St. Leonard at Bridgenorth, and stamping on it in the presence of Magister Andrew of Tettenhale, Hugh de Wrottesley, and William Godweyn. The proceedings will be found detailed at length in the printed Pleas of Quo Warranto, and in Eyton's History of Shropshire. His latest appearance is in 1307, when he occurs as a Commissioner with his brother William and others to enquire into certain trespasses, and injuries done to the lands of John de Herouville at Wednesbury, which was an ancient demesne of the Crown. He left a widow Juliana,¹ and a son William, who will figure in future pages of this history.

The deeds formerly at Wrottesley, to which reference has been made in the foregoing account of this William de Wrottesley, were as follows :—

Hec est conventio facta inter Willelmum de Wrottesleye ex una parte, et Henricum filium Alani de Boterdone ex altera, videlicet quod predictus Willelmus de Wrottesleye dimittit, etc., Henrico filio Alani de Boterdone unum toftum et unam dimidiam bovatom terre quam Nicholaus Clericus de Boterdone quondam tenuit in villa de Boterdone etc. Habendum et tenendum de me et heredibus meis sibi et heredibus

¹ De Banco Roll, Hill., 9 Edward II, m. 214.

suis termino incipiente ad festum Purificationis Beate Marie anno domini M^oCC^oLXX septimo usque ad finem viginti unius annorum plenarie completorum, libere, quiete, etc., reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis, ipse et heredes sui, quatuor solidos et sex denarios argenti, etc. Hiis testibus, Hugone de Boterdone, Rogero de Baginalt, Willelmo de Hudlesdale, Ricardo filio Ade de Boterdone, Willelmo filio Willelmi de eadem, Willelmo Clerico et aliis.¹

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Willelmus Wither miles, dedi, concessi, relaxavi, et quietclamavi pro me et heredibus meis Willelmo filio Hugonis domini de Wrottesleye totam terram et redditum cum bosco et wasto in villa de Waterfall quam emi de Ricardo de Wrottesleye, una cum tota parte mea cujusdam molendini in eadem villa. Tenendum de me et heredibus meis, etc. Pro hac autem donatione, etc., dedit mihi predictus Willelmus viginti marcas argenti per manibus. Hiis testibus Benedicto de Boterdone, Willelmo Powtrell, Rogero de Baganholt, Thoma Powtrell, Willelmo de Troweley et aliis.²

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Alicia filia quondam Willelmi domini de Wrottesleye in ligia potestate et pura viduitate mea dedi concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi pro me et heredibus meis Willelmo domino de Wrottesle et heredibus suis vel suis assignatis totam illam terram quam pater meus mihi dedit in liberum maritagium in villa de Wrotteslee. Tenendum et habendum de me vel assignatis meis sibi vel suis assignatis, totam predictam terram cum omnibus pertinentiis ad dictam terram pertinentibus jure hereditario in perpetuum. Reddendo inde annuatim mihi vel meis assignatis ipse et heredes sui vel sui assignati ad terminum vite mee decem bussellos duri bladi et unum bussal (*sic*) faborum et pisarum et tres quarterias avene, London, ad tres anni terminos, videlicet ad festum Sancti Martini quinque estric : frumenti et quinque siligini et unam quarteriam avene, ad Pascam quinque estrac : (*sic*) frumenti et quinque siligini et unum quartum (*sic*) avene, et ad assencionem domini unum bussal faborum et pisarum et unum quartum avene pro omni exactione vel demanda ad me vel ad assignatos meos pertinente. Et si contingat quod dictus Willelmus in solutione predicta ad aliquem terminum sessavit (*sic*) quod absit, dabit ad opus ecclesie de Tetenhal dimidiam marcham, et ad majorem securitatem observandam huic scripto sigilla sua alternatim apposuerunt. Hiis testibus Willelmo domino de Witindon, Willelmo domino de Evenefeld, Roberto Buffari, Roberto de Hageleye, Henrico filio Rogeri Clerico et aliis.

Seal, a circular seal with a fret on it similar to seal on deed of 1298, inscription illegible.³

¹ From copies of Butterton deeds formerly at Wrottesley, copied 1860.

² From copies of Butterdon deeds at Wrottesley, 1860. The grantor, Sir William Wyther, was a Derbyshire knight of some distinction, who had married Orabella, the widow of Sir Robert de Bee, the Lord of Hopton, Tean and Checkley, co. Stafford. In 11 Edward I he was one of the Commissioners of Array for the Welsh war in cos. Derby and Notts, and in 26 Edward I he had letters of protection whilst serving with the King in Flanders, on which occasion letters of respite from all debts were issued in his favour for the cos. of Derby, York, Hereford, and Stafford.

³ Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860. The deed is an indenture, and the seal is probably that of William de Wrottesley. The nominative in the last clause was omitted in the original deed.

Universis hoc presentem scriptum visuris vel audituris Ricardus de Werdon filius Roberti de Werdon de la Wyke salutem in domino. Noverit universitas vestra me dedisse concessisse et omnino quietum clamasse pro me et heredibus meis in perpetuum Willelmo domino de Wrottesleye consanguineo meo pro servitio suo, et heredibus suis et assignatis quibuscunque totum dominium et totum jus et clamium quod habui vel aliquo modo habere potui in omnibus terris et tenementis, wardis, releviis, redditibus, eskaetis, herietis, curie sectis, servitiis et cunctis rebus que de libero tenemento aliquo casu exire poterunt que michi vel alicui de meis aliqua ratione accidere poterunt per mortem Symonis de Werdon antecessoris mei in aliquo casu accidere poterunt (*sic*). Ita videlicet quod nec ego nec aliquis nomine meo, aliquod jus vel clamium de cetero in predicto dominio et ceteris supradictis exigere vel vendicare aliqua ratione poterimus, et omnia supradicta plenarie ut supradictum est predicto Willelmo et heredibus suis et assignatis integliter (*sic*) remaneant. Et ut hec mea donatio, concessio et quietata clamatio perpetue firmitatis robur optineant hanc presentem cartam sigilli mei impressione roboravi. Hiis testibus Galfrido de Bylston, Henrico de Prestwode, Johanne de Pembrugge, Willelmo Sacristano de Wolvernehampton, Nicholao de Trescote in Wolvernehampton et aliis.¹

A vaginal seal, a deer running, with the inscription, S. Ricardi le Verdon.

Pateat universis quod ego Stephanus de Elmedon recepi de Willelmo de Wrottesleye octo marcas et decem solidos et ij solidos et decem denarios in parte solucionis triginti marcarum in quibus mihi tenebatur per quandam conventionem inter ipsum et Walterum de Elmedon et me factam de maritagio inter Willelmum filium meum et heredem et Roseam filiam predicti Willelmi contrahendo, de quibus octo marchis et x solidis et ij solidis et decem denariis concedo me bene esse pacatum et predictum Willelmum inde esse quietum. In cujus rei testimonium has literas meas fieri feci patentes Datum apud Pylatenhale die Sabati in crastino Exaltationis Sancte Crucis anno regni regis Edwardi XXIII.²

A vaginal seal, consisting of a geometrical figure and the legend, S. Stephani de Elmedon.

Anno regni Regis Edwardi filii Regis Henrici vicessimo septimo die marcis in festo Sancte Catarine virginis inter Willelmum de Wrottesleye et Johannem de Perton super variis contentionibus ortis inter eosdem propter diversas et ignotas bundas et metas inter terras et tenementa eorundem conquievit lis finaliter in hac forma, videlicet quod predicti Willelmus et Johannes communi voluntate et unanime assensu con-

¹ Copied from the original deed at Wrottesley, 1860. From the terms of the deed, it is clearly anterior to the Statute of "Quia emptores" of 18 Edward I.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860. The Elmedons were Hereditary Foresters of the Bailiwick of Teddesley in Cannock Forest. The head of the family at this date was Magister Walter de Elmedon, but he was a cleric, and the duties of the office were performed by his brother Stephen: William, the son of Stephen, afterwards assumed the name of Pilatonhale, from the place of their residence. The Fine Roll of 30 Edward I. m. 11, states under date of 8 May, that the King had accepted the homage of William, son of Stephen de Elmedon, deceased.

cesserunt et statuerunt bundas et metas subscriptas, tenendas et observandas pro se et heredibus suis in perpetuum sine aliqua reclamacione in futurum, videlicet a quadam quereu que vocatur le Tyndede Mere Ok que est bunda inter Radulphum Basset et predictos Willelmum et Johannem, descendendo usque le Mere Wey et sic descendendo le Mere Wey usque ad proximam corneram assarti Galfridi le Crouthour versus villatam de Wrottesle et de dicta cornera descendendo per quoddam fossatum usque ad quandam quereum, et de dicta quereu descendendo per quoddam novum fossatum sicut perambulatum usque ad corneram de Wodewalle Medue, et de dicta cornera per idem fossatum usque ex opposito (*sic*) cornere assarti Hugonis de Wrottesleye quod vocatur Cronemor, et de dicta cornera ascendendo per fossatum dicti assarti usque ad assartum Willelmi de Wrottesle, et de dicto assarto ascendendo per fossatum ejusdem usque ad corneram assarti Willelmi en le Hale quod vocatur Grenhul. Et est sciendum, etc. In quorum omnium testimonium et memoriam sempiternam utraque pars alterius scripto ad modum cirograffi confecto et partito suum apposuit sigillum. Hiis testibus, Radulpho de Bysebury, Johanne de Tresel, Philippo de Lutteleye, Willelmo del Horewode, Thoma de Lutteleye, Roberto Buffary, Warino de Penna, Galfrido de Bilston Hugone de Wrottesle, Johanne de Lappele, Clerico et aliis ¹



Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Willelmus de Wrottesleye miles dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Willelmo filio meo et heredi meo et Johanne filie Rogeri Basset uxori sue omnes terras meas et tenementa super moras, videlicet in Boterdone, Waterfall,

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860. Of the witnesses, the first three were lords respectively of Bushbury, Trysull and Lutley. Ralph de Bysebury and John de Tresel occur as Knights of Great Assize on the Quo Warranto Pleas of 21 Edward I (printed). Robert Buffary was lord of Nether Penn, and Warine de Penue was tenant under him at the same place.

Grindon, et Hildesdale cum omnibus suis pertinentiis et in pratis, boscis, moris, curiis, wardis, maritagiis, placitis, perquisitis stabilibus, relevis sine aliquo mihi retenento. Habendum et tenendum omnes predictas terras et tenementa cum omnibus suis pertinentiis ut predictum est de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum predictis Willelmo et Johanne uxore sue ad totam vitam eorum et heredibus de corpore predictorum Willelmi et Johanne legitime procreatis. Reddendo et faciendo capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum servitium inde debitum et consuetum. Et si contingat, quod absit, quod prefati Willelmus et Johanna sine heredibus de corporibus eorum legitime procreatis descedant quod omnes predictae terre et tenementa sine aliquo impedimento mihi et heredibus meis plenarie revertentur, et reddendo inde annuatim mihi predicto Willelmo ad totam vitam meam quinque marcas argenti ad duos anni terminos, videlicet ad festum Sancti Andre Apostolici unam medietatem et ad festum Sancti Jacobi aliam medietatem pro omnibus servitiis secularis exactionibus et demandis. Ego vero. (*Clause of warranty.*) Ut igitur hec mea donatio, concessio et hec presentis carte mee confirmatio rata et stabilis permaneat in perpetuum presentem cartam sigilli mei impressione roboravi. Hiis testibus Domino Johanne de Somery, Domino Radulpho Basset de Draynton, Domino Henrico de Caresswall militibus, Johanne Ipstones, Willelmo Shirard et aliis. Datum apud Wrottesleye dominica Ramis palamporum (*sic*) anno regni regis Edwardi filii Edwardi sexto.¹

Hee est conventio facta die Veneris proximo post festum Inventionis Sancte Crucis anno regni Regis Edwardi filii Regis Edwardi sexto inter dominum Radulphum Basset de Drayton ex parte una et dominum Willelmum de Wrottesleye ex altera videlicet quod predictus dominus Radulphus concessit, relaxavit et omnino pro se et heredibus suis et nativis suis de Patyngnam quietclamavit in perpetuum domino Willelmo de Wrottesleye totum jus et clamium quod habent vel habere potuerunt in communia pasture quam dictus dominus Willelmus tenuit in defenso die confectionis presentium in Wrottesleye, vult etiam et concedit predictus Radulphus pro se et heredibus suis et nativis suis predictis quod dictus dominus Willelmus possit se appropiare de quodam bosco quod vocatur Sockesmore jacente inter le leye ruddyng et le Fariushurstesweye in latitudine et extendit se a bosco quod vocatur Kyngeswode usque Nethermulne Weye et boscum illum includere et in defenso tenere omni tempore anni et voluntatem suam inde facere sine aliqua contradictione predicti domini Radulphi, heredum vel nativorum suorum predictorum ita quod dictus dominus Radulphus nec heredes vel nativi sui aliquid jus vel clamium neque communam pasture in tenementis predictis de cetero exigere seu vendicare potuerit vel potuerunt quoquemodo. Pro qua quidem concessione et relaxatione et quieta clamantia predictus antedictus dominus Willelmus concessit, relaxavit et omnino pro se et heredibus suis quietclamavit in perpetuum dicto domino Radulpho Basset, heredibus

¹ From ancient copies of Butterdon deeds at Wrottesley, 1860. The first witness, John de Somery, was the Baron of Dudley. John de Ipstones was the lord of Ipstones, and William Shirard was owner of a part of Cheddleton, co. Stafford.

et assignatis suis comunam pasture totius terre quam dictus dominus Radulphus tenuit in defenso die confectionis presentum in Patyngham, et quod predictus Radulphus Basset pro se et heredibus suis et assignatis possint se appropiare in vasto suo de Patyngham in bosco vel extra absque contradictione vel impedimento dieti domini Willelmi vel heredum suorum in tantum longitudine et latitudine quantum extendit se tota terra quam tenuit dictus dominus Willelmus in defenso die confectionis presentum in Wrottesleye. Ita quod decetero neutra partium in comuna pasture in locis predictis nihil vendicare possint ut in forma predicta continetur. In cujus rei testimonium partes predictae presenti scripto indentato sigilla sua alternatim apposuerunt. Hiis testibus Dominis Johanne Somery, Willelmo Bagot, Willelmo de Stafford, Willelmo de Mere militibus Johanne de Perton et aliis. Datum apud Drayton die et anno supradictis.¹

Seal, three piles in point, and a quarter on which the charge is obliterated. Legend, S. Radulphi Basset.

Besides the above deeds there was formerly at Wrottesley an original account of the Wrottesley Bailiff for half of the year 22 Edward I (A.D. 1294), contained on a small narrow parchment roll, about two feet long and five inches wide. As this account contains the prices actually received or paid for the commodities mentioned in it, it may be advisable to print it. It also throws light on the administration of an estate in the thirteenth century. It is headed:—

Mem^a de compoto Thome Propositi domini de Wrottesle apud Wrottesle a festo (*blank*) anno regni Regis E. xxij usque ad (*blank*) anno dicto incluso.²

Rents of Mills.

12s. 6*d.* from the mill of Wythwyk, of St. John's term, and 10s. from the mill of Trille for the same term, and 12s. 6*d.* from the mill of Wythwyk for Michaelmas term, and 10s. for the mill of Trille for the same term.

Issues from the Manors.

4*d.* rent from Richard le Baxtere, 4s. 8*d.* from the herbage of the orchard and the cemetery (cymiterii), 9s. from the herbage of meadows and fields sold for "rewenage" by the view of Thomas, and 6*d.* for firewood, and 2s. 3*d.* for 108 pigeons

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860. The first witness, John de Somery, was the Baron of Dudley; William Bagot was Lord of Patshull and of the Hyde, near Stafford; William de Stafford was Lord of Sandon; and William de Mere was Lord of Maer, co. Stafford.

² The accounts are in Latin, but the Provost is often at a loss for a Latin word, and then takes refuge in his native English. These words are distinguished by inverted commas.

(columbellis) sold, viz., 1*d.* for 4 pigeons, and 2*d.* for the "escaet" of one dead ox, and 19*d.* for the skin of one dead ox, and 78*s.* 3*d.* for hay sold by the view of Thomas Cok.

Sale of Stock (venditio instauri).

30*s.* for four oxen sold, viz., for each 7*s.* 6*d.*

Pleas and Perquisites of the Court.

16*s.* 2*d.* for issues of the Court held on the Saturday after the Feast of the Assumption, and 8*s.* 11*d.* for issues of the Court held on the Tuesday the Feast of St. Martin.

Summa £12 15*s.* 7*d.*

Cost of Carts (carucarum).

In iron bought for carts 2*s.* 3*d.*, and for three carts newly made of the lord's own timber 2*s.* 6*d.*, and for two ox yokes made 1*d.*, and for two "pedalibus" bought 4*d.*, and for the pay of the smith 8*d.*, and for two carts newly made of the lord's own timber 20*d.*, and for one "thille" for corn newly made 4*d.*, and for the mending of one tumbrel 1*d.*, and for "stroc nails" bought for old wheels 2*d.*, and for "cart loutes" bought 6¼*d.*, and for 100 "clout nails" bought 1*d.*, and in grease and "vutto" bought for carts 5*d.*, and for a cord for tying the carts 2¼*d.*, and for one "colore" *sic* (collar) bought 4*d.*, and for headstalls (*capistris*) made 1*d.*, and for one "cartsadul" bought 2*d.*, and for two pounds of "floukus" 1¼*d.*, and for one "[. . .] corde" bought ¼*d.*, and in "wippecorde" 1*d.*

Shoeing of Horses.

For the shoes of cart horses 17*d.*, and for the shoes of one colt coming from the moors, 2*d.*

Cost of Houses.

For the making of two cottages de novo 40*d.*, and for the roofing of them "copertorium" 10*d.*, and for a "thatcher" for the above for two days and for the thatching, "copertorium" of the beerhouse, and the house of Alice de Gatecote 3*d.*, and for a carpenter repairing the house of Alice de Gatecote for two days 3*s.* ¼*d.*, and for 1,100 "lathe nayles" bought 6¼*d.*, and for a man making lathes out of the lord's own timber, 1*d.*

Purchase of Corn.

13*s.* for 4 quarters of wheat (frumenti) bought at Stafford, price of each quarter 3*s.* 4*d.*, and 21*d.* for seven strikes of oats (avena), price of a strike 3*d.*, and for two strikes of peas bought for the pigs 7*d.*, and for one strike of barley (ordei) bought 5*d.*

Purchase of Stock (*Emptio instauri*).

15s. for two oxen bought at Hampton (Wolverhampton), and
 16s. 6*d.* for two oxen bought and for 26 chickens (*pullis*)
 bought 13*d.*, price of each a halfpenny.

For Reaping and Mowing.

For reaping (*sarculatione*) all the corn 2s. 8*d.*, and for the
 mowing of Brodemedue 3s. 6*d.*, Brocforlong 18*d.*, Polas 9*d.*,
 Lettulmedue 8*d.*, Smalheth 4½*d.*, Calverheye 3*d.*, Marefordmore
 7*d.*, Latimedue 5*d.*, Snailemore 18*d.*, Hadyngs 2*d.*, Lyerudyng
 4*d.*, Cowelleemor 7*d.*, and in one "todder" ½*d.* Total 13s. 4*d.*

Benripe.

For bread bought 7*d.*, and in beer bought for the Benripe
 18*d.*, and for "altec" 9*d.*, and for cheese 2*d.*, and in meat
 bought 3½*d.*, and in beer bought for the carriage of the peas
 2½*d.* Total 3s. 6*d.*

Steward's Expenses (*Expensa Seneschalli*).

4½*d.* for the expence in coming and holding the Court on the
 Tuesday the Feast of St. Martin.

Issues from the Wrottesley Grange.

9 quarters and 4 strikes received from the issues of the
 "thir: ad cast:," by tail and 4 quarters received from purchase
 as appears below.

Expended.

For sowing the Lyerudyng 3 quarters, and the Bettebruche
 3 quarters 7 strikes, and le feldbruche 1 quarter, and the Dors-
 fallyng 2 quarters, and Soutersbruche 4 strikes, and on the
 Inland 3 quarters, and 5 quarters received "de rem:," by tail
 against Roger Stevens, and 8 quarters 7 strikes of the issues
 "ad cast:," by tail against Thomas.

From which was expended in sowing the Lyerudyng 2 quarters
 6 strikes, Fethemore 1 quarter 5 strikes, Dorsfallyng 4 quarters
 and 4 strikes, and in "mixtur:" and in bread made for Benripe
 3 strikes.

ARMS OF SIR WILLIAM DE WROTTESLEY.

On the dexter side. For Wrottesley:—

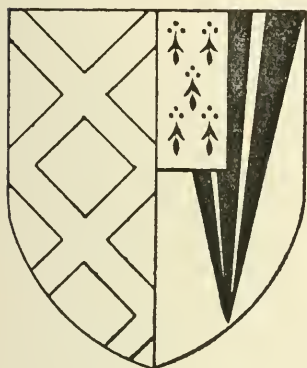
A fret, tinctures unknown. Taken from seals.

On the sinister side. For Audley of Blore:—

Argent, a fret Sable, at the intersections of the fret a cross fitchée Or.

Taken from painted glass in the old manor house of the
 Bassetts of Blore, at Fole in Leigh parish, co. Stafford.

SIR WILLIAM DE WROTTESELEY III, A.D. 1313 TO A.D. 1320.



Sir William de Wrottesley was succeeded by a son of the same name between the 4 August 1313 and the 4 October following. He is shewn to be son of the last William by the deeds at Wrottesley, by a Fine levied in 3 Edward II and by suits in Banco of Trinity term 33 Edward I, Mich. 9 Edward II, Trinity 9 Edward II, and by a suit on the Staffordshire Assize Roll of 13 Edward III.¹

Upon the 4 October 1313 a deed of covenant was executed between William, son of Sir William, Lord of Wrottesley, and the Lady Katharine, relict of the said Sir William, by which the former conceded to Katharine, as dower, the messuage and curtilages formerly held by Hugh de Wrottesleye, together with the service of five of the Wrottesley natives, or villein tenants, viz., Stephen atte tounesend, Thomas Colates, Roger in Oldefore, William Broun, and John Robines, together with an annual rent of half a mark from the land of Hugh, the Smith, a place called Fetheone, the *marleria* of Wodecroft, and reasonable housebote, haybote and fotalin (forage) for her Bailiff, and a third part of William's mill at Haukewell.

This deed was drawn up to remove that fertile source of discord in former days, the dower of a step-mother. It takes, however, no notice of the lands at Butterton and Waterfall, out of which Katherine would have been equally entitled to dower, but on the 16 December following, Katherine executed a deed by which she remitted altogether her claim to dower out of the manor of Wrottesley, as well as the tenements upon the moors at Boterdon, Waterfall, Hydlesdale and Grindon. A suit-at-law of later date shews that she had commuted her claim for dower for an annual payment of £10. This sum, therefore, may be assumed to represent fairly the value of the third part of her late husband's property. Hallam in his "Middle Ages" estimates that the knight's fee of £20 of the reign of Edward I should be multiplied by eighty to give its equivalent value in modern money. The Wrottesley estate therefore, temp. Edward I, would represent about £2,400 a year at the present date.²

¹ As these suits will all be described in their turn, it is not necessary to give the references to them in full on this page.

² It may be interesting to test Hallam's figures by actual facts. The Manor Rolls of Wrottesley shew that the rental in the reign of Edward III was between £22 and £23 a year; but at that date nearly a third of the manor consisted of a park

The first mention of this William de Wrottesley occurs during his father's lifetime in a suit in Banco of Trinity term 33 Edward I [1305]. It will be remembered that his sister Rosea had married in 1296 William, son of Stephen de Elmedon, one of the Hereditary Foresters of Cannock. William de Elmedon succeeded his father Stephen in 30 Edward I,¹ and had likewise become possessed of his uncle Walter de Elmedon's manor of Pillatonhall. In the latter manor he had enfeoffed his brother-in-law William de Wrottesley, apparently for the purpose of levying a Fine, with a view of giving a life interest in it to his wife.² The Fine, however, was not levied till 3 Edward II, and in the meantime William de Wrottesley, being the legal owner of the estate, was sued by Juliana, the widow of Stephen, for dower out of the manor.

The Record of the suit states that Reginald de Charnes and Juliana, his wife, sued William, son of William de Wrottesley, for the third of a messuage and a carucate of land, twenty acres of wood, and 30s. of rent in Pylatenhale, as the dower of Juliana, of the dotation of Stephen de Elmedon, her first husband. William called to warranty William, son of Stephen de Elmedon, who appeared, and warranted the tenements to him, and stated that Juliana had no claim to dower in the tenements, because Stephen, her husband, was not seised of them as of fee, on the day he married her, *nor ever afterwards*, and he appealed to a jury which was to be summoned for the Quindene of Michaelmas. A postscript shews successive adjournments of the suit up to 35 Edward I, when it was probably stopped by the death of the King, and was never resumed.³ If William de Elmedon succeeded his uncle Walter in Pillatonhall, which seems likely, it is clear that Juliana had no claim for dower at all out of that manor.

The Fine was levied at Easter term 3 Edward II between William, son of Stephen de Elmedon and Rose, his wife, plaintiffs, and William, son of William de Wrottesley, deforciant, of a messuage, a mill, a carucate of land, ten acres of

stocked with wild animals, which yielded no revenue. The modern manor contains about 1,600 acres; deducting from this 500 acres, the approximate area of the old Wrottesley Park, leaves 1,100 acres, which at the present day would be worth 30s. an acre—£1,650 a year. This gives a ratio of about 73 to 1, but making allowance for a rise in value between the reigns of Edward I and Edward III, the ratio of 80 to 1 appears fairly accurate.

¹ Fine Roll, 30 Edward I.

² Original deed at Wrottesley and the Cannock Forest Roll of 28 Edward I. The perambulation of the forest shews that Walter de Elmedon held at that date the vill of Pillatonhall of the Abbot of Burton, and that Stephen de Elmedon held the vill of Huntingdon of the King. The latter vill carried with it the Hereditary Bailiwick of Teddesley.

³ De Banco Roll, Trinity, 33 Edward I, m. 175. The first writ was issued at Hillary, 32 Edward I. The death of the reigning King annulled all writs, and a suit-at-law would have to be begun *de novo*.

meadow, and 40s. of rent in Pilatenhale. William, son of Stephen, acknowledged the tenements and rent to be the right of William, son of William, for which the latter granted them to William, son of Stephen, and to Rose, and to the heirs of William, son of Stephen, for ever.

An account of the knighting of William de Wrottesley at the High Altar of Westminster with Edward, Prince of Wales, and 267 others, and the ceremonies which attended it, has been already given in the history of his father. The young Knights Batchelor, made on this occasion were to accompany Prince Edward into Scotland, and perform their first feats of arms in his presence. The Scots had broken out in revolt in the spring of the year at the instigation of Robert Bruce, and the King was about to lead into Scotland the largest and best appointed army he had yet placed on foot, but Aylmer de Valence, the King's Lieutenant in Scotland, assisted by the friends of Comyn, who had been murdered by Bruce, had completely defeated the Scots at Perth before the arrival of the King, and Robert Bruce took refuge in the Western Islands till the following year. According to Fabian and Polydore Virgil, the Prince and his suite of newly made Knights were present at the battle before Perth, but the Scotch Chronicles state that the battle was fought before the arrival of the Prince.

William de Wrottesley's name occurs again on the Rolls during his father's lifetime, as one of the men-at-arms performing Knight's service for the Abbot of Pershore in Scotland in 1310.¹ This was the year of the siege of Caerlaverock, of which a contemporary metrical account has been printed. The King met with little opposition and penetrated as far as Renfrew in the Highlands.

The force of infantry at the King's disposal being found insufficient to carry on the war in a country inaccessible to mounted men, at the Parliament held at Lincoln in 1316, it was ordered that one armed man on foot (*unum hominem peditem armatum*) should be raised in every city, town or vill in the Kingdom, to serve the King in his wars in Scotland. A writ was accordingly sent to all the Sheriffs throughout England, dated the 5 March, requiring them to certify the cities, boroughs and vills in every Hundred and the names of the lords thereof. The returns to this writ are known as the "*Nomina villarum*," and have been printed by the Record Commissioners. William de Wrottesley was returned in it as lord of the township of Wrottesley, co. Stafford; the contemporary lords, who were his immediate neighbours, were:—John de Tresel, lord of Trysull, Ralph Basset, lord of Pating-

¹ Writs of Military Summonses, printed, vol. ii, p. 1,659.

ham, William Bagot of Patshul, Henry de Bishebury, Lord of Bushbury and Upper Penn, Robert Buffary, Lord of Lower Penn, and Thomas de Overton, Lord of Orton and Wombourne. All these occur as frequent witnesses to the Wrottesley deeds. From this date up to the year of his death in 1320, Sir William de Wrottesley was engaged in a continuous series of law suits, which were never terminated, and in military expeditions into Scotland, which resulted in nothing but disgrace and disaster to the English arms.

On the Patent Roll of 9 Edward II (A.D. 1316) H. Spigurnel and J. de Trillowe, Justices, were assigned to take an assize of novel disseisin, which Oliver atte Mulne, of Wyghtwyke, had arraigned against William, son of Henry atte Mulne, of Wythwyke, and William de Wrottesleye, concerning tenements in Tetenale. No record of this suit remains, but about the same date William, son of Henry atte Mulne, of Wyghtwyk, sold to Sir William de Wrottesley all the tenements in Withwike and a moiety of the mill which had fallen to him by the death of his father, and likewise the moiety of the mill and all the tenements in the same place which had fallen to him after the death of Roger, his uncle, to be held according to the custom of the manor of Tettenhale.¹ Oliver, the plaintiff in the above suit, had clearly some claim upon the mill, and had been aggrieved by the sale of it to Sir William de Wrottesley. It will be seen hereafter that a mill at Wightwyke, which had formerly belonged to Oliver de Wightwyke, was one of the causes of the feud which arose in the following reign between the families of Wrottesley and Perton.

At Michaelmas of this year (October 1316) William de Wrottesley appeared by an essoin in Banco, and sued John de Coueley for a debt of 60s., owing to the estate of his father William, and a day was given to the parties at the following Hillary term. William's appearance by an essoin, in place of an attorney, seems to show that he was engaged in the military operations in Scotland of this year. It will be seen that he took out letters of protection in the three following years, to last from September to Christmas. The record at Hillary term 1317 states that William, son of William de Wrottesley, the executor of the will of William de Wrottesley, appeared against John de Coueley in a plea that he should render to him and to Henry Basset, his co-executor, 60s., which he unjustly detained. John did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce him on the Quindene of Trinity. Henry had been summoned, but put in no appearance, and as the summons was testified, it was considered that William might sue without him.² This suit

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860.

² De Banco Roll, Hillary, 9 Edward II, m. 170.

occurs on the Rolls for the next three years, and was not concluded at the date of the death of William in 1320.

The latter appears to have inherited the fondness for litigation of his grandfather Hugh, for in addition to the above suit, he was involved this year in two others of his own initiation, and in which he could have had but little chance of success.

In the first of these he attempted to recover land in Coughton, which had been originally in the possession of one of his ancestors, but the particulars of his claim are not set out. The Banco Roll of Trinity term 9 Edward II, states that William de Wrottesley sued Ralph de Wytheleye for a messuage and forty acres of land, five acres of meadow, and 20s. of rent in Cokton as his right and inheritance. Ralph appeared to his summons and prayed a view, and the suit was adjourned to the following Michaelmas term.¹ At Easter term 1317 the suit comes on again, and Ralph stated that he held the tenements for his life only by a demise made by John de Wytheleye and Christine, his wife, and he called them to warranty. The Sheriff was therefore ordered to summon John and Christine for the Quindene of Michaelmas.² The next entry respecting the suit occurs on the Roll of Easter 12 Edward II. Ralph did not appear on the day given to him, but came into Court on a later day of the term, and as before, called to warranty John de Wytheleye and Christine his wife. The Sheriff was ordered to take the tenements into the King's hands, and to summon the parties to hear judgment at the Quindene of Michaelmas.³ No further notice of the suit occurs, and it was doubtless brought to an end by the death of William. The tenements in dispute may have been those given to the father of William by Richard de Verdon of the Wyke.

In the same year, viz., in 9 Edward II, William de Wrottesley had another suit on hand, by which he attempted to recover possession of the manor of Loynton. This suit is of great interest from a genealogical point of view, for William deduces his descent in it from an ancestor, William de Verdon, living temp. Henry III.

The Record of the suit on the de Banco Roll of Trinity term, 9 Edward II, is as follows:—

William, son of William de Wrottesley, by his attorney Clement de Hampton, sued Roger de Lemynton (*sic*) for the manor of Lemynton as his right and inheritance, and in which the said Roger had no entry except by a demise which William de Verdon, the great grandfather (*proavus*) of William, and whose heir he was, had made to Roger Dunkan for a term

¹ De Banco, Trinity, 9 Edward II, m. 103, dorso.

² De Banco, Easter, 10 Edward II, m. 34.

³ De Banco, Easter, 12 Edward II, m. 174, dorso.

which had expired, and which, after the said term, should revert to the said William, son of William, and he stated that the said William de Verdon was seised of the manor in his demesne as of fee and of right in the reign of King Henry, the King's grandfather, and from the said William de Verdon the right descended to one Hugh as son and heir, and from the said Hugh to one William as son and heir, and from the said William to the plaintiff as son and heir, and he produced his proofs. Roger appeared by attorney and defended his right, and denied that William, the great grandfather of the plaintiff, was seised of the manor in such a way that he could demise it to anybody, and on this issue he appealed to a jury, and William likewise. The Sheriff was therefore ordered to summon a jury for the morrow of St. Martin.¹

No notice of the suit occurs on the Roll for Michaelmas term, and it was evidently adjourned through defect of a jury, for the Roll of Easter term, 10 Edward II, states that the Sheriff had been ordered to produce at that term William de Mere and the rest of the jury which had been summoned between William, son of William de Wrottesle, plaintiff, and Roger de Levinton, tenant of the manor of Levington, and he had returned into Court certain sums, the issues of distrains levied upon those who had not appeared.² Subsequent entries on the Rolls shew that the suit was adjourned from term to term, through defect of juries, up to Easter term, 12 Edward II, when a writ of *nisi prius* was issued, respiting the suit till the Quindene of St. Michael, unless William de Bereford (the Justice) should first come to Lichfield on the Saturday next after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (15 September, 1319).³ This is the latest notice of the suit we have. It was probably stopped by the death of William, which took place before the Easter term of 13 Edward II.

It was doubtless in connection with this suit that we have the curious exemplification of John, Abbot of Evesham, dated 16 April 1316, which is printed at page 8. In this deed the Abbot certifies to the correctness of a transcript of a deed, which existed at that time amongst their archives, by which his predecessor Reginald had granted the vill of Livintune to Robert Dunekan for his life, for an annual rent of one mark. The deeds now at Loynton shew that the family called de Livingston, or Levington, had been originally named Dunkan, and the object of the exemplification was to prove that they held no hereditary tenure. The facts of the case seem to be that the Wrottesleys had in former days accepted a fine on the death of

¹ De Banco Trinity, 9 Edward II, m. 88 dorso.

² De Banco Roll, Easter, 10 Edward II, m. 85 dorso.

³ De Banco Roll, Easter, 12 Edward II, m. 160 dorso.

a tenant at Loynton for the admittance of the son to the tenancy, and this process having been repeated several times, had resulted in the family of Dunkan or de Livingston acquiring a customary hereditary tenure. Reginald was Abbot of Evesham between the years 1130 and 1149.¹

Having completed the story of Sir William's numerous lawsuits, I now propose to resume the account of his military employments.

In the autumn of 1316 he was serving in Scotland in the retinue of John de Warrenne, the Earl of Surrey, letters of protection having been granted to him by a writ dated from Beverley on the 8 September, 1316, to last till the following Christmas.² Ralph, Lord Basset of Drayton, was serving in the same retinue as a Banneret; and Sir William was probably serving under the banner of his kinsman.

Holinshed's Scottish Chronicle gives the following account of the operations of this year: "Edward King of England, hearing that King Robert was passed over into Ireland, thought the time to serve well for his purpose, eftsoones, to invade Scotland, and thereupon coming with a great power to the borders, he purposed to have done some great feat. But Sir James Dowglas, the Governor, having likewise gathered an army, gave him battell, and put him and his people to flight. In this battell was slain three notable Captains on the English side, as Sir Edmund Lilaw, a Gascoigne, Captain of Berwick, with Sir James Neville—and the third Sir James Dowglasse slue with his own hand."

The so-called battle could have been nothing more than a

¹ The ancient deeds now at Loynton shew clearly that that manor was the Livingtuna or Levintona which formed part of the Wroottesley fee. I am indebted to Miss Burne of Loynton for the following abstracts of deeds now in her possession.

Rogerus Donekan dominus de Levintona, dedi etc. Roberto filio Roberti cognato meo de Levintona et heredibus suis quandam partem terre mee in Levintona etc. Hiis testibus Domino Willelmo officiale de Norburia. Domino Johanne domino de Westona etc.

Sciant etc. Robertus Donekan de Leyntone dedi etc. Roberto filio Roberti le Fremon de Leyntone duas seylyones terre quas prius Rogero patre meo emit in campo quod vocatur Sidenhale etc. H. T. Roberto de Westona, Magistro Willelmo de Kemesey Roberto de Prato de Offlega, Radulpho ad Vivarium de eadem etc.

Omnibus etc. Rogerus dominus de Levyngton, Noveritis me concessisse Rogero de la Wildemor et Edithe uxori sue et heredibus suis totum jus quod habeo, in uno messuagio etc. in villa de Levynton. H. T. Willelmo domino de Westone, Rogero le Fremon de Levyntone etc. Datum 7 Edward II. Seal a lion rampant.

Omnibus etc. Willelmus de Wrootteslegh miles, salutem, Noveritis me concessisse, relaxasse etc., Rogero de la Wildemor et heredibus suis totum jus et cladium quod habui vel aliquo modo habere potui in omnibus terris et tenementis que tenuit in Levyntone die confectionis istius scripti salvo mihi et heredibus meis servitiis inde debitis et consuetis. H. T. Radulpho de Grendon Roberto de Tylinton Willelmo de Stalbrok, Willelmo Gryffyn de Coltone. Roberto by the Water de Salt. Datum apud Stafford 11 Edward II.

After the litigation had commenced respecting the manor, Roger de la Wildemor evidently considered it advisable to obtain a confirmation of his title from William de Wroottesley.

² Scotch Roll, 10 Edward II, m. 5.

skirmish, for the English King's plans were frustrated by the refusal of the Earl of Lancaster and many of the great Barons to join the army. The Staffordshire Barons obeyed the King's summons—and the Scotch Rolls give the following names of Staffordshire tenants who accompanied the King upon this expedition.

John de Somery, the Baron of	Thomas le Rous, of Walsall,
Dudley,	Thomas de Haughton,
James, Lord Audley,	Robert Hastang,
Ralph le Botiller,	Roger Trunwyne,
Roger Corbet,	Henry Basset,
Ralph Basset, of Drayton,	John Hastang,
William de Birmingham,	William Bagot,
John Giffard, of Chillington,	Henry de Bissebury,
John de Swynnerton,	Ralph de Grendon, and
William de Ferrers,	William de Wrottesley.
John de Sutton,	

In the spring of 1318 the Scotch, under Randal, Earl of Murray, obtained possession of Berwick by treachery, and in the autumn of the same year advanced into England, burning and destroying everything as far south as Northallerton, in Yorkshire.

The King summoned his forces to assemble at York in September, and he was joined there by John de Somery, the Baron of Dudley and his retinue. In the latter were:—William de Birmingham, Henry de Bissebury, Hugh de Heppesham, of Bobbington, John de Sutton, John de Swynnerton, John Giffard of Chillington, and William de Wrottesley. Their letters of protection are dated from York on the 24 September.¹ Most of the great lords appear to have disobeyed the King's summons upon this occasion.

In the following year the King made an attempt to recover Berwick, and issued summonses to all the military tenants of the Crown to meet him at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on the 20 June, prepared with horses and arms to proceed against the Scots. John de Somery had letters of protection to last till Christmas Day, dated from York on the 20 July, and the following who were of his retinue, had the same:—

William de Burmingham,	Thomas de Pipe,
John de Sutton,	John Giffard, of Chillington,
William de Wrottesley,	Henry de Bissebury,
William Deverous (of West	John de Swynnerton, and
Bromwich),	others. ²
Thomas de la Hyde,	

¹ Scotch Roll, 12 Edward II, m. 12.

² Scotch Roll, 13 Edward II, m. 3.

The Scottish Chronicle gives the following account of the events on the Marches in this year:—

“In the yeere following, King Edward came and laid siege to Berwick, but the towne was so well defended, he was constrained with small honor to return home and leave it as he found it. For in the meantime Thomas Randall Earl of Murrey and the Lord James Douglass assembled their forces together, but perceiving themselves too weake to remove the siege by force, they passed by, and entering into England, wasted and destroyed all before them, keeping on their way to Burrow-bridge. When King Edward lieng as yet at the siege of Berwick, understood what mischief the Scots did within his realme, he raised his siege in purpose to have incountered with his enimies, but the Scots advertised of his purpose, returned with all their prisoners and spoile by Stanemore, and so through Gilsland and the West Marches, withdrew home into their countrie.”

King Edward finding himself unable to intercept the Scotch army, advanced against Edinburgh, but the Earl of Lancaster and many of the Barons withdrew from the army, and the unfortunate King, perceiving that it was hopeless to carry on the war, owing to the dissensions amongst his own subjects, concluded a truce of two years with Robert Bruce.

The letters of protection granted to Sir William Wrottesley upon this occasion, are the latest notice we have of him. At the following Easter term, the Abbot of Evesham appeared by his attorney in Banco, and sued Joan, formerly wife of William de Wrottesleye, to give up to him Hugh, the son and heir of William de Wrottesleye, the wardship of whom belonged to him, inasmuch as the said William held his lands of the Abbot by Knight's service. Joan did not appear to her summons, and the Sheriff was ordered to attach her for the following Michaelmas term.¹

William de Wrottesley left two sons, Hugh and Roger, and two daughters, Idonia and Elionora, the eldest child being only six years of age. He died within seven years of his marriage with Joan Basset, in the prime of life, and making allowance for the interval which must have elapsed before the tidings of his death could have reached the Abbot, and an action in Banco have been commenced against his widow, it seems probable that he died during the military operations in Scotland in the autumn and winter of 1319—1320.

The deeds formerly at Wrottesley, which have been quoted in the foregoing account of Sir William de Wrottesley, were as follows:—

S. D. Sciant presentes et futuri, quod ego Willelmus filius Stephani de Elmedone dominus de Pylatunhale dedi, concessi et hac presenti

¹ De Banco, Easter, 13 Edward II, m. 68.

carta mea confirmavi Willelmo filio Willelmi domini de Wrottesleye totum manerium meum de Pylatunhale cum omnibus pertinentiis suis. Habendum et tenendum de capitaneis dominis feodi, sibi et heredibus suis vel assignatis cum homagiis etc. ad predictum manerium contingentibus, ita libere et quiete sicut ego vel aliquis antecessorum meorum predictum manerium liberius prius tenuimus integre et in pace cum omnibus pertinentiis et libertatibus suis, faciendo inde debita servicia et consueta capitaneis dominis feodi pro omni servitio seculari mihi vel heredibus meis pertinente: ego vero (*clause of warranty*). Et ut hec mea donatio etc. sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Domino Willelmo de la Pole, domino Willelmo Trumwine militibus, domino Willelmo de Nortone canonico ecclesie de Penceris, Magistro Galfrido de Bilstone, Henrico de Prestewode, Johanne de Say de Dunstone, Hugone de Wrottesleye clerico et multis aliis.¹

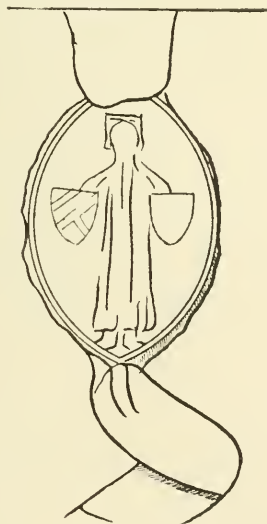
7. E. 2. Hec est conventio facta inter Willelmum filium domini Willelmi domini de Wrottesleye ex parte una, et dominam Katerinam relictam predicti domini Willelmi ex parte altera, videlicet concessit tradidit et dimisit predictae Katerine totum illud messuagium cum curtiliagiis sicut includitur quod Hugo de Wrottesleye quondam tenuit cum Steffano attetounesend, Thoma Colates, Rogero in Oldefore, Willelmo broun, Johanne robines cum serviitiis eorum quas facere solebant, cum una dimidia marca annuatim reddita de terra Hugonis fabri exeunte sine altero servitio ab eodem petendo, una cum terris et tenementis, pratis, pasturis in diversis locis jacentibus cum una placea quod vocatur Fetheone et cum merlera de Wodecroft exceptis catallis in eisdem tenementis die confectionis presentum existentibus. Habenda et predictae Katerine tenenda omnia predicta tenementa ad totam vitam suam nomine dotis sicut bundantur et dividantur, et etiam concedit dictus Willelmus predictae domine Katerine rationabile housbote et haybote et fotalin pro habitatione ballivi sui, et si contingat quod predictus Willelmus egistiat pratum suum, quod predicta Katerina habeat tria denaria inde provenienta cum tertia parte molendini sui de Haukewell cum omnibus eysiammentis et communis predictae dote pertinentibus et cum liberis introitibus et exitibus. Et ego vero predicta domina Katerina concedo per presenti me bene et plenarie esse dotata de toto manerio de Wrottesleye cum suis pertinentiis. In cujus rei testimonium uterque predictus altero scripto per visum Guydonis de Glaseleye, Henrici Basset, Galfridi Gataker, Johannis de Mollesleye, Ricardi de Picheford sigillum suum apposuit. Datum apud Wrottesleye die Jovis proximo post festum Sancti Michalis anno regni regis Edwardi filii Edwardi septimo. (4 Octo. 1313.)²

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860. The date is subsequent to 18 Edward I, the date of the Statute of "Quia Emptores," and anterior to 32 Edward I, the date of the suit in Banco at p. 74.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860. The first witness is Guy, Lord of Glaseley, co. Salop, and son of Katherine, by her first husband, Alan de Glaseley. See Eyton's Shropshire, vol. i, pages 115 and 214. Henry Basset was probably a near relative of Joan, the wife of Sir William, for he occurs in 9 Edward II as the executor of the will of Sir William de Wrottesley, the father, who died in 1313. See vol. ix, Staffordshire Collections, p. 56.

A vaginal seal about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length, of white wax, the same as shewn in next deed: a woman standing and holding in each hand a shield, inscription illegible.

7. E. 2. Omnibus Chrispi fidelibus ad quos litere presentes visuris vel audituris pervenerint Katerina quondam uxor domini Willelmi de Wrottesle salutem in domino Noveritis me in propria viduetate mea et plena potestate relaxasse, et omnino pro me quietclamasse in perpetuum Willelmo domino de Wrottesle totum jus meum seu clamum quod habeo seu aliquo modo habere possum de toto manerio de Wrottesle et de omnibus terris et tenementis super moras cum omnibus eorum pertinentiis occasione dotis. Ita videlicet quod nec ego predicta Katerina nec aliquis ex nomine meo aliquam exigentiam nomine dotis exigere poterimus seu de cetero calupniare in supradictis tenementis videlicet de Wrottesle et de omnibus tenementis super moras videlicet Boterdon, Waterfal, Hyddlesdale et Grendon. In cujus rei testimonium presenti litere sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Johanne de Mollesle, Roberto de Ovioteshay, Edmundo de Penne, Ricardo de Picheford et multis aliis. Datum apud Wrottesle die dominica proxima post festum Sancte Lucie virginis anno regni regis Edwardi filii Edwardi septimo. (16 Dec. 1313.)¹



INTERREGNUM, 1320—1333.

When the Abbot of Evesham claimed the wardship of the heir, and the custody of the manor of Wrottesley, Joan, the widow of Sir William, appears to have resisted by force the entry of the Abbot's Bailiff at Wrottesley, for we find the

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

Abbot suing her for a trespass *Coram Rege* at the following Trinity term. The Roll states that the Abbot of Evesham appeared against Joan formerly wife of William de Wrottesleye, Richard de Oveyhotshaye,¹ and William de Engelton in a plea of trespass, *de transgressionem*, and they did not appear, and a day had been given to them at this term. Afterwards the said Joan had been attached by Richard de Wrottesleye and John de Wrottesleye, and the said Richard (de Oveyoteshaye) by William de Engelton and Roger le Carter, and the said William (de Engelton) by Richard de Wrottesleye and Adam de Wrottesleye. They (*i.e.* the sureties) were therefore *in misericordia*, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce them at three weeks from Michaelmas.

There is no further mention of this suit on the Rolls. Joan conceded the point by a deed of which the original is now in the Public Record Office, and of which an ancient copy on parchment was preserved at Wrottesley until the late fire. This deed is of sufficient importance to be given in extenso.

Omnibus Chrispi fidelibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint Johanna que fuit uxor domini Willelmi de Wrottesleie salutem in domino. Noveritis me reddidisse domino Willelmo Abbati de Evesham manerium de Wrottesleie cum suis pertinentiis et Hugonem filium et heredem dicti domini Willelmi de Wrottesleie quod injuste tenui a morte dicti domini Willelmi de Wrottesleie usque ad confectionem presentis, ita quod dictus dominus Abbas et successores sui habeant et teneant dictos manerium cum suis pertinentiis et Hugonem nomine custodie usque ad legitimam etatem heredis dicti domini Willelmi de Wrottesleie absque aliqua contradictione mei seu aliorum nomine meo. Salva mihi rationabile dote mea de dicto manerio. In cujus rei testimonium presenti sigillum meum apposui Datum apud Wrottesleie die Mercurii proximo ante festum Sancti Bartolomei apostolici anno regni regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi quarto decimo. [20 August 1320.]²

Seal destroyed.

The question in dispute was whether the manor was held of the Abbots of Evesham by military service or by a socage tenure. Under the first of these tenures, the Abbot would be entitled to the custody of the manor and the wardship and marriage of the heir. In the case of a socage tenure, the custody of the heir and of the manor would devolve on the nearest of kin, who was not in the line of succession, and in

¹ This Richard de Oveyhoteshaye is the same person as the Richard de Picheford of the deeds of Katherine, widow of Sir William de Wrottesley, who died in 1313. Oveyoteshaye is now Ivetsay-in-Albrighton, of which the Pichefords of co. Salop had been formerly lords. (Eyton's Shropshire.)

² Ancient deed, Augmentation Office. At the date of the suppression of the Monasteries, their deeds were deposited in the newly formed Augmentation Office.

this case the custodian would have been Joan, the mother of the heir.

According to Coke's Institutes, "Tenure by socage is where the tenant holds of his lord the tenancy by certain (*i.e.* fixed) service, in *lieu* of all *manner of services*, so that the service be not Knights service," and he goes on to say, "also if a man holdeth of his lord by escuage certain *viz.* in this manner: when the escuage runneth and is assessed by Parliament, to a greater or a lesser sum, so that the tenant shall pay to his lord, but half a mark for escuage and no more nor less, to how great a sum, or how little the escuage runneth, such tenure is tenure in socage, and not Knights service; but where the sum which the tenant shall pay for escuage is uncertain, *viz.* where it may be that the sum that the tenant shall pay for escuage to his lord may be at one time more, and at another time less, according as it is assessed, such tenure is tenure by Knights service."

The Abbots deed of feoffment to Simon, the ancestor of William, granted Wrottesley and Livingston to Simon and his heirs, "the said Simon and his heirs to render two marks annually for all services *saving the service of the King*."¹ These words "*salvo servitio Regis*," according to Madox, include scutage, and following the Dictum of Coke above quoted, the sum payable, being left uncertain, would create a tenure by Knights service.

On the other hand, it is clear that the Abbots of Evesham were not liable for scutage, nor was it paid by their tenants, for after the date of the Fine levied in 1200 between the Abbot and Hervey Bagot and Milicent de Stafford, the fee of Wrottesley and Livingston is no longer included amongst the fees on the Scutage Rolls, for which the Baron of Stafford was liable, and which are given in detail in the Testa de Nevill. It likewise appears that at the date of the Inquest upon the Feudal Tenures, which is known as Kirby's Quest, William de Wrottesley claimed to hold by a socage tenure, and his claim was allowed in these words.

"Willelmus de Wrotkesley tenet per socagium de Abbate de Evesham, et idem Abbas de Nicholao Barone Staffordie, et idem Baro de Rege in capite."²

It will be seen from the above facts, that the question whether the manor was held by Knights service, or in socage, was involved in some obscurity, but a socage tenure was so advantageous to the tenant, that Joan, the widow of Sir William, who was the guardian in socage, should have fought the question in a Court of Law. Whether she was intimidated

¹ See ante page 52.

² Kirby's Quest, Public Record Office.

by the simultaneous actions brought against her in the superior Courts, or whether she was bribed or cajoled to sacrifice her own interests as well as those of her son, it is difficult to say, but it is a somewhat suspicious circumstance that we find her married very shortly afterwards to John de Tettebury, who appears to have been a near relative of her adversary the Abbot.¹

Joan Basset, as widow of Sir William de Wrottesley, would be entitled to a third of the manor of Wrottesley, as dower; she also held the rents from the Butterton lands, which had been settled on her and her first husband on their marriage in 1313. At the date of the death of her husband, in 1320, Katrine Lestrange, the second wife of the first Sir William, was alive, and as her claim to dower had been commuted at £10 a year, she held a first charge on the Wrottesley estates. In bad years, when the rents were in arrear, or difficult to collect, this must have left little or nothing for Joan, and at Hillary term 2-3 Edward III, viz., in January 1328, John de Tettebury and Joan attempted, by a suit in banco, to obtain a third of the rent of £10 from Katrine, as dower of Joan. Katrine, who is styled Katrine de Glaseley in the record of the suit, had failed to appear at two previous sittings of the Court, and the dower claimed had been taken into the King's hand in the usual way. John and Joan now appeared, and claimed the third part through the default of Katrine. The latter appeared by attorney, and denied that she had received a legal summons at the previous term, and offered to wage her law. She was therefore directed to appear in person, with her compurgators, at the following Easter term.² No further notice of this suit occurs, but it is of interest, as it enables us to identify Katrine, the second wife of Sir William de Wrottesley, with Katrine, the widow of Sir Alan de Glaseley. She was a daughter of John Lord Lestraunge of Knockin, and holding the manor of Glaseley, co. Salop, in dower, would be probably known as Katrine de Glaseley. Her first husband died in 1302.

A guardian in chivalry was bound to maintain his ward, and for the five years following the death of his father, Hugh

¹ The Abbot was son of John Herwarde of Tettebury, and I conclude John de Tettebury was his brother or nephew. The marriage of the widow would likewise belong to the Abbot, if the manor was held by military service.

² De Banco, Mich., 2 Edward III, m. 342 dorso, and Hill., 2-3 Edward III, m. 204. The ancient Saxon law of compurgation was still in force in the case of the denial of a debt, or of a summons. The plaintiff would bring forward a witness to prove the summons, the defendant would then produce two witnesses to disprove it. If the plaintiff produced a second witness, the defendant would produce two more in opposition, and so on up to twelve. If the defendant could produce twelve witnesses, the decision was given in his favour.

de Wrottesley would have been brought up by the Abbot of Evesham. On the 15 January 1325, the young heir being then eleven years of age, the Abbot sold the custody of the manor of Wrottesley and the marriage of the heir to John de Hampton, the Hereditary Seneschal or Steward of the Monastery. The deeds which passed upon this occasion were as follows:—

Hec est conventio facta inter Willelmum dei gratia Abbatem de Evesham ex parte una et Johannem de Hampton ex parte alia videlicet quod predictus dominus Abbas tradidit et concessit predicto Johanni custodiam omnium terrarum et tenementorum cum suis pertinentiis in Wrottesleie que quidem dictus dominus habuit ratione minoris etatis Hugonis filii et heredis Willelmi de Wrottesleie militis (defuncti) eo quod predictus Willelmus predictas (terras et) tenementa sua de predicto domino Abbate tenuit per servitium militare per quater viginti tribus libris sex solidis et octo denariis in quibus predictus Johannes recognovit se teneri dicto domino Abbati in Scaccario domini Regis solvendis predicto domino Abbati per decem annos proximos sequentes, sicut in dicta recognitione continetur. Habendam et tenendam predictam custodiam predictarum terrarum et tenementorum cum suis pertinentiis predicto Johanni usque ad legitimam etatem predicti Hugonis sine vasto seu destitutione aliqua inde faciendo in domibus, boscis seu gardinis, et si contingat dictum Johannem heredes vel executores suos vel aliquem alium nomine eorum facere vastum seu destitutionem in domibus, boscis seu gardinis supradictis, liceat domino abbati seu successoribus suis in dictas terras et tenementa ingredi et ea retinere sine contradictione alicujus. Si contingat quod absit, predictum Hugonem infra decem annos proximos sequentes post datum presentium infata decedere, quod dictus Johannes vel executores sui habeant et teneant custodiam predictarum terrarum et tenementorum usque ad finem predictorum decem annorum, si heredes predicti Hugonis infra etatem existant. In cujus rei testimonium tam predictus dominus Abbas quam predictus Johannes huic indenture sigilla sua alternatim apposuerunt Datum apud Evesham die Martis proximo post festum Sancti Hillarii anno regni regis Edwardi decimo octavo.¹

Hec Indentura testatur, quod ita convenitur inter dominum Willelmum dei gratia Abbatem de Evesham ex parte una et Johannem de Hampton ex parte alia videlicet quod dictus dominus Abbas dedit et concessit dicto Johanni pro quadam summa pecunie quam dictus Johannes dicto domino Abbati dedit per manibus maritagium Hugonis filii et heredis Willelmi de Wrottesleie militis, quod quidem maritagium predicto domino Abbati accidebat ratione minoris etatis dicti Hugonis, eo quod predictus Willelmus pater predicti Hugonis, cujus heres ipse est, tenuit manerium suum de Wrottesleie de dicto domino Abbate per servitium militare. Ita quod predictus Johannes maritabit predictum Hugonem ad Elizabeth

¹ Old copy on parchment formerly at Wrottesley in handwriting of fifteenth century.

filiam suam primogenitam, nec liceat predicto Johanni prefatum Hugonem alibi maritare. In cujus rei testimonium tam predictus dominus Abbas quam predictus Johannes huic indenture alternatim sigilla sua apposuerunt. Datum apud Evesham die martis proximo post festum Sancti Hilarii anno regni regis Edwardi decimo octavo.¹

On the execution of these deeds John de Hampton appears to have taken up his abode at Wrottesley, for the Subsidy Roll of 1 Edward III (1327) names him as the principal owner of land in the manor, his assessment being nearly double that of any other tenant. As the question has often been mooted whether the villein tenants of a manor were taxed on these occasions, I propose to give here the names of all the tenants who were assessed on this occasion and five years later in 6 Edward III, and compare their names with those of known villein tenants of the manor. In 1 Edward III the tenants assessed were :—

John de Hampton,	Adam le Bonde,
Roger atte tounesende,	Henry Benynes,
Stephen the Provost,	Roger in Oldestrete,
John de Tettebury,	Roger, son of Stephen,
Thomas Cholettes,	William Stevenes,
Simon Aylewyne,	Thomas in le Huyrne.

In 6 Edward III the tenants named on the Subsidy Roll were :—

John de Tutteburi (<i>sic</i>),	Thomas in le Huyrne,
Roger Roberds,	Simon Aylewyn,
Roger Richards,	Henry Benyn,
Stephen atte tounesend,	John othegrene,
Roger Aylewyn,	Richard Benyn.

¹ Old copy of deed at Wrottesley on parchment in handwriting of fifteenth century.

The Abbot William, who was the party to this deed, was William of Chiriton, who governed the Abbey from 1316 to 1344. The Evesham Chartulary Cott. MS. Nero. D. 3, states he was son of John Herwarde, of Tettebury, whose brother was Abbot of Cirencester. John de Hampton, the other party to the deed, is more difficult to identify, for there were more than one of this name living at this period. It may be taken for granted, however, that he was identical with John de Hampton named in the Evesham Chartularies as the Steward or Seneschal of the Abbey, and a later deed, formerly at Wrottesley, shews he was of Elderstoke or Oldstoke, co. Southampton. This seems to identify him with a John de Hampton who was Commissioner of Array for co. Southampton, and custodian of the Harbours and Coasts of the same County in 20 Edward III. (French Roll of that year.)

In 20 Edward II John de Hampton was King's Eschaetor for the Counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, Salop and Stafford. In the same year he was appointed by Letters Patent to take Assizes in co. Worcester, and in 8 Edward III he was commissioned to take Assizes in co. Stafford. An Inquisition on the death of Joan, late wife of John de Wynecote, mentions the death of a John de Hampton in 23 Edward III.

The deed of 1313 printed above, and a Wrottesley Manor Roll of 1382 give the following names of villein tenants who were natives of the manor :—

Hugh Robardes,	Isolda othegrenc,
Richard othegrene,	William Richardes,
Thomas Rogerson,	Stephen atte Tounesend,
William Carte,	Thomas Colates,
John Hugynes,	Roger in Oldefore,
John othegrene,	William Broun, and
Thomas ofthelye,	John Robines.

The inference seems to be that the villein tenants were assessed equally with the free tenants.

The second Subsidy Roll of 6 Edward III shews that at that date John de Hampton had given up his residence at Wrottesley, and as John de Tettebury's assessment had been doubled in the meantime, I conclude that Sir John Hampton had relinquished his share of the manor to John de Tettebury, who already held one-third of it as dower of his wife. It is not unlikely that at the same time Hugh de Wrottesley had been handed over to the care of his mother and John de Tettebury, for judging by what we know of the character and subsequent proceedings of Hugh de Wrottesley, his guardian must have been glad to be relieved of his charge. Whatever the arrangement may have been, the result was unfortunate and produced a violent feud between Hugh and his stepfather. At Michaelmas term 5 Edward III, when the former would be between seventeen and eighteen years of age, he had already two suits pending in Banco against John de Tettebury and his mother.

In the first of these, Hugh appeared by his custos Henry de Lench, and sued John de Tettebury and Joan his wife for waste and destruction in the lands, houses, woods and gardens which they held in dower, of his inheritance in Wrottesley.¹

Henry de Lench, who occurs in this suit as the custos of Hugh, was one of the Prothonotaries of the Court of Common Pleas, and had been made a party to the action, in order to enable Hugh to sue as a minor.

The second suit was an action against the same defendants, to render an account for the time they had held the custody of his lands and tenements in Wrottesley, which he pleaded were held in socage.² The defendants put in no appearance in either action, and the Sheriff was ordered to attach them for the

¹ De Banco, Mich., 5 Edward III, m. 54.

² Ibid, m. 223.

following Hillary term. A guardian in socage was supposed to hold the tenements for the benefit of the heir, and was bound to account to him for the profits. It appears from this last suit that John de Tettebury and Joan held the status of John de Hampton in the manor.

Besides the suits above-mentioned, he was likewise suing his stepfather in the Court of King's Bench, or *Coram Rege* as it was then called, for a trespass committed at Wrottesley, in taking fish from his fishponds to the value of £20,¹ and he had a fourth action against the same defendant and Joan his wife to render an account for lands and tenements in Pateshull, which were held in socage, and of which they had held the custody during his minority. This last action clearly refers to the mill of Hawkwell, and here he stood on better ground, for this mill was held in socage of the lords of Patshull.

The record of Michaelmas term, 7 Edward III., states that Hugh de Wrottesleye sued John de Tettebury and Joan his wife in a plea, that whereas it had been provided by Statute that the guardians of lands and tenements, which were held in socage, should render a reasonable account of the issues of the said lands, etc., to the heirs of the same, when they came of age, the said John and Joan refused to give any account for lands and tenements in Pateshull, which were held in socage and of which they had held the custody during his minority. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff returned into Court a sum of 20d, as the proceeds of a distress levied upon their goods. He was therefore ordered to distrain again and produce them on the Octaves of Hillary.²

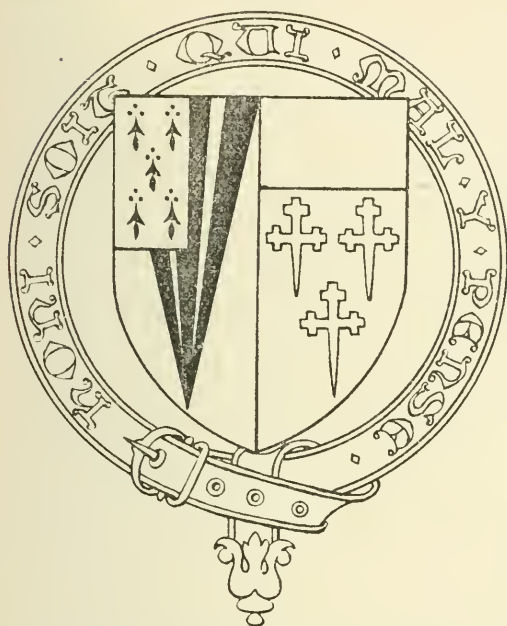
It will be seen that Hugh could not maintain this action, unless he was of age, and at this date he had not completed his twentieth year. The clue to this enigma is that he had been knighted and his knighthood gave him possession of his estates. By the common law, if a minor was knighted, he was forthwith entitled to the livery of his lands. This was, in fact, "a legitimate consequence of the old Teutonic custom, for being invested with the arms of manhood, he was deemed to be of full age."³

¹ *Coram Rege* Roll, Hill., 7 Edward III., m. 134 dorso. Hugh complained that John had taken from his fish ponds "*lupos aquaticos (i.e. pyke) perch et roch, et brene (sic) ad valenciam viginti librarum.*" All these suits brought by Hugh against his stepfather continue on the Rolls until Michaelmas 10 Edward III., when they appear to have been dropt simultaneously.

² De Banco, Mich., 7 Edward III., m. 240 dorso.

³ Palgrave's English Commonwealth.

SIR HUGH DE WROTTESELEY, K.G., A.D. 1333 TO A.D. 1381.



Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, who now succeeded to his inheritance, is shewn to be son of the last Sir William by the deeds above printed, a suit in Banco of Easter term 13 Ed. II, and another suit on the Staffordshire Assize Roll of 13 Ed. III. He was born in the early part of the year 1314, but is found to be a Knight and in full possession of his estates in January 1334. As he was under age at the date of his knighthood, he must have been made a knight on the field

of battle, and he was doubtless one of those created by Edward III on the 19 July 1333, the eve of the battle of Halidown Hill.¹

Early in the year 1334, Sir Hugh having previously enfeoffed John de Fulford in the manor of Wrottesley and the Patshull Mill, the above feoffee reconveyed them to him, under the title of Hugh de Wrottesley, Knight, to be held by him and Elizabeth, his wife, and the heirs of the body of Hugh, with remainder to Roger, brother of Hugh, the son of William de Wrottesleye, and heirs male of his body with remainder to Idonia, his sister and heirs male of her body, with remainder to Elianora, the sister of Idonia and heirs male of her body, with final remainder over to the right heirs of Sir Hugh. This deed is dated on the Sunday after the Feast of St. Hillary, 7 Edward III, which would be the 16 January 1334.²

Roger is styled here son of William de Wrottesleye, to distinguish him from the half brothers of Sir Hugh, the sons of John de Tettebury, of whom several were living at this date.

John de Tettebury and Joan apparently did not acquiesce in their expulsion from the Wrottesley estates, for on the Patent Roll of 8 Edward III William de Sharesulle, Roger Hillary, and John de Peyto, the elder, were appointed to take an assize of

¹ Holinshed's Chronicle.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860.

novel disseisin, which John de Tettebury and Joan, his wife, had arraigned against Hugh de Wrottesleye and Elizabeth, his wife, and others, touching tenements in Boterdon, Waterfal, Grendon, Stafford and Wrottesley.¹ The other defendants were John de Fulford and Richard de Wolmere.²

Whilst all these suits were pending, Sir Hugh was making preparations to join the crusade, under Philip de Valois. The Patent Roll of 8 Edward III states that Hugh de Wrottesleye, who was about to set out on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, had King's letters of attorney in the names of Peter de Hoo and Thomas de Cheyne, available for three years, with power to sue in all Courts of England, dated 23 March.³ The two attornies named were Prothonotaries of the Court of Common Pleas.

The Pope, at the request of Philip de Valois, the King of France, had preached a crusade by bull dated 3 Dec. 1331, and the spring of 1334 had been fixed for the departure of the crusaders. Edward, the King of England, had promised to join the crusade, and Philip had taken an oath in 1333 to stay three years in Syria, at the head of a French army. The crusade was afterwards postponed, and the ships ordered to be ready in 1336, but the hostilities between France and England put a stop to the expedition.⁴

It would be tedious to give in detail all the law suits brought by Sir Hugh against his step-father. Those in the Westminster Courts continued for two years longer, the latest entry respecting them being one on the Roll of Easter term, 10 Edward III, which states that the Sheriff of co. Stafford had been ordered to proceed in person to the woods of Wrottesleye, which John de Tettebury and Joan, his wife, held as dower of Joan of the inheritance of Hugh de Wrottesleye, Chivaler, and on the oath of twelve men, who had no affinity to the parties, made diligent enquiry into the extent of the waste and destruction caused by the said John and Joan, by cutting down and selling one hundred oak trees, each worth half a mark, and to return the Inquisition at this term, and the Sheriff now returned that the said John and Joan had committed waste and destruction to the extent of £10 in the Wrottesleye woods by cutting down eighty oak trees, and as the Sheriff did not return a certain value for each oak he (*viz.* Simon de Ruggeleye) was fined 20s., and was ordered to make another Inquisition and return it on the Octaves of St. John de Baptist.⁵ Besides all

¹ Rot. Pat., part ii, m. 7 dorso.

² Essoin Roll, Stafford Assizes, 8 Edward III. Richard de Wolmere was Sir Hugh's attorney.

³ Rot. Pat. 8 Edward III, part i, m. 22.

⁴ Sismondi's *Histoire des Français*.

⁵ De Banco, Easter, 10 Edward III, m. 283 dorso. No further notice of this suit occurs on the Rolls.

these law suits, Sir Hugh revived during the course of this year, the claim upon the manor of Loynton, which had been dropt by his father's death in 1320, but the only notice I have found respecting it, is an entry on the De Banco Roll of 10 Edward III which states that Hugh de Wroottesley, Chivaler, not appearing to prosecute his claim against Roger de Levington for the manor of Levinton, the suit was dismissed.¹

In the following year, viz., in 1337, we meet with the first notice of the feud between the families of Wroottesley and Perton, on which depended some of the principal events in the life of Sir Hugh. The Coram Rege Roll of Easter term, 11 Edward III (April 1337), states that Hervey le Freman of Okene and Thomas, his son, Ralph le Freman of Okene, Henry de Codeshall, Thomas de Wolmere, Thomas en le Hurne of Wroottesleye, William atte Yate of Wroottesleye, Simon Aylwyne and Roger, his son, Stephen atte Tounesende and William, his son, Henry Benyng, Richard Benyng, Roger Benyng, John, son of William Crey of Tettenhale, and many others named, to the number altogether of twenty-nine, were attached at the suit of Leon de Perton for breaking *vi et armis* into his close at Wyghtwyk, on the Tuesday before the Feast of the Assumption, 10 Edward III [August 1336], and cutting and carrying away his wheat and barley, rye, oats, beans and peas to the value of £20. The defendants appeared by attorney and denied the injury, and appealed to a jury which was to be summoned for the following Trinity term.² The plaintiff in this suit was a younger brother of William, the lord of Perton, and held an appointment in the King's household as "Pannetarius Regis," or Chief Baker of the King. Nine of the defendants were tenants of Sir Hugh de Wroottesley. This suit occurs on the Rolls for the next three years, but no jury was ever empanelled to try it, and this is not to be wondered at, for Wightwyke was a member of the King's manor of Tettenhall, and on the 18th March 1337 the King had committed the custody of this manor to Sir Hugh de Wroottesley.³

Shortly before this date, Roger, son of Roger atte Blakeleye of Wroottesley (one of Sir Hugh's tenants), had been suing in the lords' Court of Tettenhall, Walter, son of John de Perton, for a messuage, 16 acres of land, and an acre of meadow in Tettenhale Regis. Walter, fearing local influence, transferred the cause to be heard at Westminster, and a writ of right was issued directing the suit to be recorded, and returned into the Court of Common Pleas at Trinity term 12 Edward III. At the latter term the Sheriff returned that he had taken with him

¹ De Banco, Mich., 10 Edward III. m. 446, dorso.

² Coram Rege, Easter, 11 Edward III, m. 119.

³ Originalia, 11 Edward III, m. 3.

four discreet and legal Knights of his Bailiwick, and the suitors (sectatores), *i.e.*, the homage of the Court had refused to make the record, but he had, nevertheless, summoned the parties to appear at Westminster at this term. Walter appeared by attorney, but Roger, the plaintiff, put in no appearance, and the suit was dismissed. The Court, however, made an order that the Bailiff of the manor of Tettenhall Regis, in the event of any attempt being made to injure the said Walter, should, without delay, cause him to be restored to his lands and compensated for the injury.¹

The person whose intimidation was feared on this occasion was, without doubt, Sir Hugh de Wrottesley; the latter had obtained the custody of the King's manor on the 18 March 1337, for which he was to pay 100s. annually into the Exchequer. At Michaelmas term, 12 Edward III, he paid 53s. 10d., and was debited on the Pipe Roll for the balance.² In the same year the King granted the manor in fee to Sir Henry de Ferrers, the Baron of Groby.³

Another member of the Perton family having been nearly beaten to death during these proceedings, the King issued the following special commission on the 7 October 1337. By letters patent of that date, William de Shareshulle, Roger de Swynnerton, and Roger Hillary were appointed to hear and determine the complaint of John de Perton, that Hugh de Wrottesleye, Chivaler, and Roger, his brother, Richard de Oveyoteshay, and Thomas, his son, John de Foulford, and Ralph, his brother, Adam de Hocleye, William, son of Geoffrey atte Gataere, Thomas Crey of Cumpton, John Leg, Richard Kempe, John Russell, Thomas, son of Thomas Crey, William, brother of Thomas, son of Thomas, Roger Stevens of Wrottesleye, and Stephen atte Tounesende of Wrottesleye, and certain other malefactors and disturbers of the King's peace, had assaulted the said John de Perton at Totenhalehome, and beaten, and wounded him, so that his life was despaired of, and had assaulted his men and servants at the same place, and committed other enormities to the grievous damage of the same John, and against the King's peace.⁴ This John de Perton was brother of Leon, the plaintiff in the suit of Easter term, 11 Edward III, and on his death, which resulted from these injuries shortly afterwards, another special commission was issued, dated the 20th February following, addressed to Roger de Swynnerton, William de Shareshull, William Trussell, Roger Hillary, Thomas de Halghton, and Richard de Peshale, appointing five or four, three or two of them, of whom either

¹ De Banco Trinity, 12 Edward III, m. 59 dorso.

² Pipe Roll, Staffordshire, 12 Edward III.

³ Originalia, 12 Edward III.

⁴ Rot. Pat., 11 Edward III, part 3, m. 30 dorso.

William de Shareshull or Roger Hillary should be one¹ to enquire on the oath of honest and legal men of county Stafford, what malefactors and disturbers of the peace had feloniously killed John de Perton at Tetenhalehome, and by whose procurement the same had been done, and what persons had knowingly received the said malefactors afterwards, and to hear and determine the said felony according to the law and custom of the Kingdom."²

It must have been in connection with these events that Sir Hugh executed two deeds which were formerly at Wroottesley. By the first of them, which was dated on the Thursday after the Feast of St. Ambrose, 11 Edward III [3 April 1337], he enfeoffed his cousin, William de Wroottesley, and another in the manor of Wroottesley; and, two days afterwards, by another deed, he mortgaged all his lands at Butterson and elsewhere on the moors for a sum of £20 to his father-in-law, Sir John de Hampton, the said sum to be repaid at Elderstoke [Oldstoke in Hampshire] on the following Octaves of St. John the Baptist (1 July 1337).

Being thus furnished with the sinews of war, he set out to join the English forces in Scotland, taking with him all those implicated in the attack upon John de Perton.

By a writ dated from Thame on the 12th November 1337, letters of protection were granted to the following, who were about to set out on the King's service to Scotland in the retinue of William de Montagu, Earl of Salisbury, viz., John Russell, Roger Stevens of Wroottesleye, William, son of Geoffrey atte Gatacre, Richard Kemp, John de Foulford, Thomas Crey of Cumpton, Hugh de Wroottesleye, John Leg, Ralph de Foulford, Thomas, son of Thomas Crey, Richard de Ovyhetteshaye, William, son of Thomas Crey the elder, Adam de Hocleye, Thomas, son of Richard de Ovyhetteshaye, and Stephen atte Touneshende of Wroottesleye.

The close coincidence of these names with those mentioned in the commission of 7 October 1337, proves that Sir Hugh had obtained private intimation from some person in authority, of the issue of the commission, and of the names of those against whom the plaint of John de Perton had been lodged, and this person, I suspect, could have been no other than Sir William de Shareshulle, the Chief Justice, who was Sir Hugh's nearest neighbour, and with whom, at this time, he was on excellent terms.³

¹ These were the professional judges.

² Rot. Pat., 12 Edward III, part i, m. 33 dorso.

³ By deed dated from Patshull on the Thursday after the Feast of St. Ceddæ, 10 Edward III, Sir Hugh exchanged the Patshull mill for a mill called Trillemulne in Orton with Sir William de Shareshull; the former mill being much the more valuable of the two. [Original deed at Wroottesley].

Holinshed's Scottish Chronicle gives the following account of the operations of the English forces in Scotland during this year; under the date of 1337 it states that "about the same time Sir William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, together with the Earl of Arundell, came into Scotland with a great power of men, and besieged the Castell of Dunbar, lieng at the same for the space of 22 weeks [at which battell also was King Edward, the Earl of Gloucester, the Lords Percie and Nevill] being in the yeare 1337 as saith Seala Chronicle. Within the said Castell was the Countesse herselfe, surnamed Blacke Agnes of Dunbar, who shewed such manlie defence, that no gain was to be got anie waies forth at hir hand, so that in the end they were constrained to raise their siege and to depart without speed of their purpose. It is said that this Countesse used manie pleasant words in jesting and tawnting at the enimies doings, thereby the more to incourage hir souldiers.

"One day it chanced that the Englishmen had devised an engine call a sow under the pentise or covert whereof they might approach safelie to the walls. She beholding this engine merilie said, that unless the Englishmen kept their sow the better, she would make her cast hir pigs, and so she soon after destroyed it."

The English Chronicle of Holinshed, describing the same events says:—

"This siege began even in the beginning of the 12th yeare of King Edward's reigne and continued for the space of nineteene weeks with small gaine and lesse honour to the Englishmen, in so much that the same brake up under a colour of a truce, when there was no hope of winning the place, and the noblemen that laie there at siege, hasted to make an end of it, that they might attend the King in his journie over into Brabant."

On the 7th June 1338 the two Earls raised the siege, and retired to Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Edward III had now decided to assert his claim to the throne of France by force of arms, and, having made alliances with the German Emperor, the Duke of Brabant, and other Powers, had levied considerable forces for operations in the Low Countries and north-east provinces of France. All the counties of England as far north as Warwickshire were summoned to arms by writs dated 26 February and 1 March 1338, and the rendezvous of the expedition had been fixed at Great Yarmouth, Ipswich, and Orwell in Suffolk.

On the 10 July 1338 the following letters of protection were granted to William de Montagu, who was about to proceed abroad in the King's service, and to the following who were of his retinue. Dated by the King from Walton.

Robert de Burton,
 John Murdak,
 Robert de Barton,
 William de Molyns,
 John de Coupeland,
 Henry Peverel,
 Roger de Wrottesley,
 Hugh de Wrottesley,
 Nicholas de Halughton,
 John de Stapleton
 Thomas West.¹

William Waleys,
 Thomas Peeche,
 John de Whytechurch,
 Thomas Crey le fitz,
 Robert de Neville,
 Robert de Littlebury,
 John Avenel,
 Thomas Wale,
 Peter Malorri,
 Philip de Budifort,

Many of these names became eminent in future years. Thomas West and Robert de Neville served as Bannerets at Crecy,² and John de Copeland was the Esquire who took David, King of Scots, prisoner at the battle of Neville's Cross, and was afterwards promoted to the rank of Banneret. Most of the others named were at Crecy, and Sir Hugh de Wrottesley and Sir Thomas Wale were numbered amongst the original Knights of the Garter.

John de Whytechurch and Thomas Crey occur frequently in connection with Sir Hugh, and probably served as his archers in this expedition. Every man-at-arms brought into the field a mounted archer, and Roger de Wrottesley would be serving as an esquire or man-at-arms in Sir Hugh's suite. By the usual indentures of service each knight had to provide six horses, an esquire three or four, and an archer one. The archers, who formed part of a knight's retinue, were invariably mounted, and must not be confounded with the archers supplied by the counties or towns, who served on foot. The former are styled on the Rolls, "*Sagittarii equites*," and were often men of good birth, the younger sons of knightly families.³

Another entry on the Aleman Roll of 12 Edward III, under date of 21 July, states that Roger de Wrottesley and Hugh de Wrottesley, who were in the King's service abroad, had letters of general attorney under the names of Richard de Ovyoteslay and William in the Lane of Hampton.

The King set sail on the 16 July and landed at Antwerp a few days afterwards. His allies, however, were not ready to take the field, and the English forces were distributed in the towns of Antwerp, Brussels, Malines and other places. Some desultory operations took place on the frontier, and Sir Walter de Manny, who had made a vow that he would be the first to enter the French territory, collected about forty lances ("de bons

¹ Aleman Roll, 12 Edward III, part i. m. 6.

² "Crecy and Calais," by the present writer.

³ Military service performed by Staffordshire tenants in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, vols. viii and xiv, William Salt Series.

compagnons et hardis," as Froissart styles them) and surprised the Castle of Thun l'Evesque. This took place in the autumn of 1338.

It is not unlikely that Sir Hugh was one of the "bons compagnons et hardis" of Sir Walter on this occasion, for on the 23 November following, the King, in consideration of the good service performed by Sir Hugh de Wrotesley in parts beyond the seas, granted him a full pardon for the death of John de Perton. Dated as above from Antwerp and signed "*per ipsum Regem*."¹

The English army remained inactive in the neighbourhood of Malines and Brussels till the summer of 1339, when the King crossed the frontier with his allies and laid waste the French territory as far as Peronne and St. Quintin. The French and English armies met in the neighbourhood of Vironfosse, but the French King refused battle, and the English had eventually to retire through want of provisions. In February 1340, the King returned to England, leaving behind him the Queen and his cousin, Henry of Lancaster, as sureties for his return, and for the payment of an immense debt in which his military operations had involved him.

The Earl of Salisbury, who was Marshal of the Army, remained abroad in command of the troops, but having incautiously attempted to join Van Artevelde by cross roads, with a small body of men, was taken prisoner with most of his retinue by a detachment from the garrison of Lille. This took place, according to Froissart, in the summer of 1340.

In the meantime, the King, having collected fresh forces in England, set sail from Orwell on the 16 June, and defeated the French Navy, which had been sent to intercept him off Sluys on the 24 June. He afterwards landed his troops and laid siege to Tournay, but a truce was concluded with the French on the 25 September. By a writ dated 30 September 1340, the King authorized Sir John Pulteney to export 160 sacks of wool to be sent to Bruges for the ransom of William, Earl of Salisbury.

On obtaining his pardon for the death of John de Perton in the autumn of 1338, Sir Hugh de Wrotesley appears to have returned to England, and to have attempted to collect the rents of Wrotesley, which had been mortgaged to his father-in-law Sir John de Hampton. At the Assizes held at Lichfield, at Easter, 13 Edward III (April 1339), John de Hampton sued Hugh de Wrotesleye and William de Wrotesleye for unjustly

¹ Antwerp Patent Roll, 12 Edward III, m. 3. The Great Seal had not accompanied the King abroad, and, in 1352, when Sir Hugh wished to produce this pardon in the Courts at Westminster, it was renewed under the Great Seal, with this note in the margin of the Roll, "*Innovata quia alia fuit consignata per ipsum Regem*."

² Close Roll, 14 Edward III.

disseising him of the manor of Wroottesleye, and obtained a verdict in his favour with 100/s. damages.¹

Upon his failure to collect the rents of Wroottesley and with all his other estates fully mortgaged,² Sir Hugh must have been at this time in dire straits for want of money to enable him to rejoin the King in Flanders, and the method he took to extricate himself from his difficulty does credit to his ingenuity, if not to his honesty. Parliament had granted to the King for the expenses of the expedition 20,000 sacks of wool, and these were to be collected by the King's officers taking one sack out of every two produced in the country, until the whole amount had been raised. Such a system of collection would naturally lead to the concealment of the wool in the possession of individuals, and in the previous year the King had issued a writ to the Sheriffs, Mayors and Bailiffs of Oxfordshire and Staffordshire, stating that he had been informed that many men of those counties had concealed their wool, half of which had been granted to him by Parliament, and he had therefore appointed John de Mynors, Sergeant-at-Arms, to make enquiry into the matter, and to seize all the wool which had been so concealed.³

Sir Hugh appears to have taken advantage of this state of affairs to confiscate to his own use 27½ sacks of wool which had been kept back by the Wroottesley tenants. These he carried off to Ipswich and from thence to the Low Countries, smuggling them out of the country in such a way that he neither paid the customs due on the export of wool, nor the subsidy owing to the Crown.

The Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 15 Edward III has the following entry respecting this transaction:—"Hugh de Wroottesleye owes £55 for the customs and subsidy on twenty-seven and a half sacks of wool exported (eductis) from Gippewic in 13 Edward III, as was shewn on the 'compotus' of John de Preston and Richard de Leyham, the Collectors of the Customs and Subsidy at that port." This debt is charged against Sir Hugh on the Pipe Rolls for several years, but was subsequently remitted by the King. The Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 22 Edward III, after mentioning a debt owing by Sir Hugh for the manor of Tettenhall, says:—

Idem Hugo (de Wroottesleye) reddit compotum de lvi li. de custuma et subsidio xxvii saccorum lane ipsius Hugonis, eductis de portu Gippewic anno xiii ibidem et in Rotulo xiii^o in Salopia et Rotulo

¹ Staffordshire Assize Roll, 13 Edward III.

² On the 22nd January 1339 he had raised a sum of £123 6s. 8d. on the security of his lands by a Statute Merchant at Shrewsbury. De Banco Roll, 14 Edward III, m. 284.

³ Almain Roll, 12 Edward III, under date of 24 June.

xv^o In thesauro nichil. Et in perdonatione eidem Hugoni de gratiâ Regis speciali lvi. per breve Regis de privato sigillo irrotulatum in memoranda de anno xxv in termino Michaelis. Et quietus est.

On his return to England at the end of 1339 Sir Hugh proceeded to expel his stepfather and mother from the lands at Butterton, which they held under the marriage settlement of 1313. This he effected by a writ of novel disseisin, which was heard at Wolverhampton before William de Sharesnull and his fellow Justices of Assize on the Friday, the Morrow of St. Katherine the Virgin, 13 Edward III [26 Nov. 1339].

The Record states that an Assize was summoned to return a verdict whether John de Tettebury and Joan, his wife, and William, son of William Barre, of Albryghton, had unjustly disseised Hugh de Wrottesleye, Chivaler, of a messuage, six acres of meadow, ten acres of wood, forty acres of pasture and 13s. of rent in Boterdon, Grendon and Waterfall.

William Barre stated he held nothing in the tenements, and John de Tettebury pleaded that he found his wife, Joan, seised of the tenements, and John and Joan jointly pleaded that the tenements were formerly in the seisin of one William de Wrottesley, the grandfather of the said Hugh, and whose heir he was, and William had given them by his deed to William, his son, the father of Hugh, and to the said Joan, then wife of William, son of William, and which Joan was now wife of John de Tettebury, and to the heirs of their bodies, and failing such, to his own right heirs, and they produced the deed of William de Wrottesley to that effect. Hugh replied that William, his grandfather, had never delivered seisin of the tenements to William, his father, and to Joan, but had retained his status in them all his life, and had died seised of them in demesne as of fee, and after his death the said William, son of William, had entered as son and heir, and had died seised of them, and after the death of William, son of William, he had entered as son and heir. The jury found in favour of Hugh de Wrottesley, and assessed his damages at six marks.¹

It is difficult to understand the reason of this verdict: for under the provisions of the deed of 1313, Joan was clearly entitled to hold the tenements for her life. It is possible there may have been some technical informality in not delivering seisin of the tenements to William and Joan in 1313, but from what we know of the character of Sir William de Sharesnull, it is quite as probable that the verdict was due to the partiality of the judge.

Between this date and the renewal of the war with France in 1342, there is little of interest to record respecting Sir Hugh. On

¹ Assize Roll, Staffordshire, 8-13 Edward III, m. 14 dorso.

the 10 October 1341, a special commission was issued by the King, addressed to Sir John de Sutton (the Baron of Dudley), Sir Hugh de Wroottesley and Sir Adam de Chetwynde, commanding them to arrest divers persons named and commit them to prison for an attempt to subvert the King's privileges connected with the collation of Louis de Cherleton to the Prebend of Codsall, of the King's Free Chapel of Tettenhall. The principal persons ordered to be arrested under this writ were the Prior of Sandwell, Edmund, the Prior's Priest, William, the Mercer of Birmingham, three of his sons, and Robert, the Parson of the Church of Birmingham.¹

Early in the year 1342, Sir Hugh revived again his claim upon the manor of Loynton. His father had proceeded by writ of entry, a hopeless measure, for the tenant at Loynton could easily prove that his ancestors were in seisin of the manor anterior to 5 Henry III, which was the limit of time for this description of action. The writ now issued by Sir Hugh assumed that the tenant at Loynton was his Bailiff, and liable to render an account of the issues of it. On the Roll of Hillary Term, 15-16 Edward III, in Banco, the essoin (*i.e.* the representative) of Hugh de Wroottes-eye appeared against Roger de Levinton in a plea that he should render a reasonable account for the time he was the receiver of the money of the said Hugh. Roger did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to attach him for the Quindene of Holy Trinity. No further entry respecting this suit has been found on the Rolls, and it was probably suspended by the outbreak of hostilities between the French and English, and the departure of Sir Hugh for Brittany in April of this year.

The cause of the renewal of the war between the French and English was the dispute respecting the succession to the Duchy of Brittany. The truce between the two countries would not expire till June 1342, but Charles de Blois, one of the claimants to the Duchy, having obtained possession of Nantes by surprise, and taken prisoner his rival, John de Montfort, an English force under the command of Sir Walter de Mauny sailed in April to the relief of Hennebon, to which Joan de Montfort, the wife of John, had retired with her infant son, and which was closely invested by the forces under Charles de Blois. The story of the defence of Hennebon by Joan de Montfort, and its relief by Sir Walter de Mauny will be found in all the histories of the period; but Froissart's account of the reception by Joan of her English allies is worth transcribing.

The terms of the capitulation had been already arranged when the English fleet was descried upon the horizon. All thoughts of a surrender were at once abandoned, and the forces under de

¹ Patent Roll, 15 Edward III, part 2, m. 21, dorso.

Mauny having landed and dispersed the French besiegers, were able to communicate with the garrison. "Adone," says Froissart, "*vit la Comtesse descendre du chatel a grand chère et baiser messire Gautier de Mauny et ses compagnons les uns apres les autres deux ou trois fois, bien put dire que c'étoit une vaillante dame.*"

One of Sir Walter's companions on this occasion was Ralph, the Baron of Stafford, and he had in his retinue the following Staffordshire knights: Philip de Chetwynde, Henry de Cresswell, John Hastang, John de Weston, John de Sutton, James de Pype, John de Stafford, Walter de Stafford, John de Mokeleston, and Hugh de Wrottesleye.¹

By close writ dated 25 January, 16 Edward III, fifty-seven sacks of wool, of the value of £8 each, were granted to Ralph, Lord Stafford, for the maintenance of fifty men-at-arms in the King's service, of which two were Bannerets, sixteen were Knights, and thirty-one Esquires; a Banneret to receive 4/s per diem, a Knight 2/s and an Esquier 1/s. The two Bannerets would be John de Sutton, of Dudley, and John Hastang, of Chebbesey.

On the 5 October 1342, the King sailed from Sandwich with an army of about 12,000 men, and having joined his forces with those under de Mauny, besieged the three towns of Rennes, Vannes and Nantes. Walter de Mauny's force formed a part of the army which invested Vannes, and it was during this siege that Lord Stafford and a portion of his retinue were taken prisoners, under circumstances very characteristic of the style of warfare then in vogue.

The Earls of Warwick and Arundel, the Baron of Stafford, and Walter de Mauny, with a view of defying the French garrison, advanced up to the barriers of the town, planted their standards in the ground, and then withdrew out of the range of the enemies' missiles. In answer to this defiance, the French opened wide the gates of the town, and then advanced to take the standards. Then, says Froissart, "*La eut fait tant de belles appertises d'armes que merveille serait a raconter, car les Anglais qui veoient la porte ouverte, le tenoient a grand dépit.*" During the skirmish which ensued, the Baron of Stafford forced his way beyond the outer barriers, and being enclosed between them and the town gates, was taken prisoner with a portion of his retinue.

The French and English armies remained in presence of one another for the greater part of the winter of 1342-43, when Clement VI, who had been recently elected Pope, sent two Cardinals to negotiate a peace between them.

On the 19 January 1343 a truce was concluded to last till Michaelmas, during which negotiations for a permanent peace

¹ French Roll, 16 Edward III, m. 31.

were to be carried on before the Pope at Avignon. The King returned to England in the following March, leaving William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, in command of the troops left behind in Brittany.

The truce was badly kept by both sides; one of the conditions of it stipulated for the release of John de Montfort, but the French King retained him a prisoner against the expostulations both of the Pope and of King Edward. The English retaliated by a raid upon the French, in which the principal actor appears to have been Sir Hugh de Wrottesley.

The Pope writes to the King from Avignon in October 1343, stating that it had been notified to him that whereas the Bishops of Penestre and Tusculum, the nuncios of the Holy See, had taken mutual pledges from both parties, and the truce was pending and in force; a nobleman, named Ralph de Montfort, and others who were with him in the army of the King of France, had been seized in their beds by one named Hugh de Wrotelesse, with other armed men of the retinue of the Earl of Narantune (Northampton) and had been taken captive to the said Earl, who still detained them as prisoners, and had subjected them to various losses and injuries to their persons and effects, even to the extent of depriving them of a considerable sum of money in gold.¹

The King answered under date of the 29 November, from Westminster, that he had always observed the truce in good faith, even when the other party had not done so, and he had even complained in the presence of the Royal Legates that the French had violated the truce, and he therefore prayed the Pope to interpose with the other side for the more efficient maintenance of it.

The real history of the transaction seems to be that the English, upon hearing of the presence of a de Montfort with the French army, had assumed that it was John de Montfort, the competitor to the Duchy of Brittany, who had been detained a prisoner by the French against the stipulations of the truce, and Sir Hugh Wrottesley had been sent by the Earl of Northampton to effect his release by force or stratagem.

On the conclusion of the truce between the two nations on the 19 January 1343, mutual exchanges of prisoners had taken place. Ralph, Lord Stafford, was one of those who were liberated on this occasion, and with him were released all those of his retinue who could obtain an exchange or purchase their liberty by a ransom. Sir Hugh de Wrottesley was apparently in England in September of this year, for on the 22nd of that

¹ Papal Letters (printed), Record Series. The letter also appears in Rymer, who has printed the name Wrocelesse, the "c" and "t" being indistinguishable in ancient handwriting.

month Leo de Perton remitted to him all his claim to the mill of Wightwyke and other lands and tenements held by Sir Hugh in Tetenhale and Wightwyke. On the 15 December following, William de Stretton likewise released to Sir Hugh for his life all claim to a mill and lands in Wightwyke.¹ These deeds brought to a close the first stage of the dispute between Sir Hugh and the Perton family respecting the above lands and mill, but it will be seen later on that Sir Hugh in 1355 obtained a pardon under the Great Seal for the death of Thomas de Stretton, who was a son of the abovenamed William.²

It has been shewn that on Sir Hugh's departure to join the King in Flanders in 1338, he had borrowed a very large sum of money under a Statute Merchant at Shrewsbury,³ which was to be repaid within the following six months. The debt had not been repaid at Michaelmas 1342, for at the Michaelmas sittings in Banco of that year, a writ of "*scire facias*" was issued to levy the debt on Sir Hugh's property.⁴ It will give the reader an idea of the heavy indebtedness of Sir Hugh at this date, when it is stated that this sum represented six times the annual value of Wrottesley, but notwithstanding this, we find the whole debt to have been liquidated very shortly after the return of Sir Hugh to England at the end of 1343. The deeds at Wrottesley shew that on the 5 October 1342, John, the son of Walter Geffrey, of Salop (a rich burgess of Salop, who had advanced the money), had mortgaged all the lands and tenements in Boterdon, Grendon and Waterfall, which he held by feoffment of Sir Hugh Wrottesley to Adam de Peshale, for a sum of eighty marks, and Adam, on the 12 January 1344, conveyed to Sir Hugh all the lands and tenements in Boturdon, Grendon and Waterfall, which he held by feoffment of John, son of Walter Geffrey, of Salop, and on the same day Sir Hugh gave a power of attorney to Richard de Wollemere to take possession of them.⁵

The manor of Wrottesley at this date was in the hands of Sir John de Hampton, held as security for another advance of money, and other lands belonging to Sir Hugh were in possession of John de Sutton, the Baron of Dudley; but in October 1344, the latter released to Sir Hugh, by deed, all the lands and tenements which he held by grant of Sir Hugh in Tetenhale and Bysschebury (Bushbury),⁶ and as Hugh, about

¹ Original deeds at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² Patent Roll, 29 Edward III, part i, m. 20.

³ A Statute Merchant was a debt acknowledged in the presence of public authorities, specially deputed to receive acknowledgments of debts under the Statute of Acton Burnel, passed in the reign of Edward I.

⁴ De Banco, Mich., 16 Edward III, m. 134, dorso.

⁵ Copies of Buttertun deeds, formerly at Wrottesley, 1860.

⁶ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

the same date, re-obtained possession of Wrottesley, all these debts had been repaid before the end of October 1344, and there seems no doubt that Sir Hugh had redeemed his bond and his lands by money which he obtained through the ransom of his French prisoners.

At Easter term of 1345, Sir Hugh appears as plaintiff in three suits in Banco,¹ but the only one of any interest is a suit by which he attempted to recover possession of two of his female villeins, who had absconded. These were Agnes, daughter of William in le Stones, and Joan, her sister. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to attach them for a day in Michaelmas term. This suit remains on the files of the Court for the following three years, the Sheriff at every adjournment returning that the defendants could not be found and held no goods or chattels within his Bailiwick by which they could be attached; but testimony was at length given on behalf of Sir Hugh, at Michaelmas term 22 Edward III, that they held sufficient property for the purpose.² The Sheriff was therefore ordered again to distrain and produce them on the Quindene of St. Hillary. The probability is that one of the sisters had married a freeman and had taken refuge within a chartered town, where Sir Hugh could not arrest them, except under process of law. If this was the case, the real object of the suit would be to recover the fine due to the lord, on the marriage of a female villein. The suit does not occur again, and it was probably terminated by the outbreak of the Great Pestilence of 1349. The surname of the sisters is of some interest when taken in connection with Dr. Plot's description of the large roughly-hewn blocks of stones formerly in the old Park of Wrottesley, which he considered to be the remains of an ancient Roman or British city.

Hostilities between the French and English broke out again in 1345. The Earl of Lancaster was sent to Guienne in command of a large body of men-at-arms and archers; and by a writ dated the 24 April, the King appointed William de Bohun, the Earl of Northampton, his *capitaneus* in France and the Duchy of Brittany, with instructions formally to defy the French King, who was unjustly occupying the throne of France, and who had violated the truce and refused all redress.

In July 1346 the King set sail from Portsmouth, with a view of joining the Earl of Lancaster in Guienne. On the third day, however, the wind changed to the south-west, and threw his fleet back on the coast of Cornwall, where they laid at anchor for six days, waiting for a favourable change. As no change of

¹ Staffordshire Collections, vol. xii, p. 39.

² De Banco, Mich. 22 Edward III, m. 420. dorso, and Staff. Coll., vol. xii, p. 89.

wind occurred, the King was persuaded by Godfrey de Harcourt, a French refugee in his service, to land his troops in Normandy, and he sailed for La Hogue in the Cotentin, which he reached on the 12 July. The province was defenceless, the French forces having been concentrated in the South to oppose the Earl of Lancaster. An attempt to stop his progress was made by the Constable of France and the Earl of Tankerville at Caen, but the town was taken by assault, and the Constable and the Earl, with sixty knights and 300 of the most opulent citizens were taken prisoners and conveyed to England by the Fleet. Up to this point the King had followed the coast line and been accompanied by his Fleet. From Caen he struck into the interior, and took the road to Paris, his light troops penetrating as far as the suburbs, and burning the towns of St. Germain, St. Cloud, and Bourg la Reine. He passed the Seine at Poissy, near Versailles, by a stratagem, his workmen repairing the bridge, during the absence of the main body of the enemy, and under cover of the fire of his archers. From this point he moved in the direction of Calais, passing the Somme at a ford near its mouth at low tide. On the 28 August he halted at Crecy, in a strong position, having the forest of Crecy on his left flank and rear. Here he rested for twenty-four hours, for the purpose of resting his troops and collecting all his stragglers. On the 26 August the French King attacked him with a greatly superior force, but was completely defeated, losing the greater part of his army. On the 1 September the King resumed his march and invested Calais on the 3rd.

Throughout all these operations, Sir Hugh served in the retinue of Edward the Black Prince,¹ who having completed his sixteenth year, had been knighted by the King on the disembarkation of the army at La Hogue, and to whom had been assigned the nominal command of the First Division or van of the army. To this Division were appointed a number of Bannerets and Knights of approved value and experience in war, as well as all the young bachelor Knights who received Knighthood at the same time as the Prince. Froissart, in describing the Prince's Division, states he had in his retinue "*toute la fleur de chevalerie d'Angleterre*."²

The story of Crecy is in fact the story of the Prince's division, for the whole brunt of the battle fell upon this portion of the army. The French men-at-arms dispersed the

¹ Memoranda Roll, Queen's Remembrancer, 25 Edward III. Writs of Michaelmas Term, m. 2.

² Froissart's Chronicle; Writs on the Memoranda Rolls of the Queen's Remembrancer, and "Crecy and Calais" by the present writer. Sir Hugh Wrotesley at this date was thirty-two years of age; as he was not in the retinue of any of the Earls or Barons of the Prince's Division, he must have been attached to the person of the Prince himself.

English archers, who were in front of the Prince's column, and threw themselves with great gallantry and impetuosity on the English knights and men-at-arms in rear. These had been dismounted and fought on foot. Froissart says of this part of the battle : "*Si y eut aucuns chevaliers et ecuyers francois et de leur coté, tant allemands comme Savoisiens qui par force d'armes rompirent la bataille des archers du Prince et vinrent jusque aux gens d'armes combattre aux épées main à main moult vaillamment, et là eut fait plusieurs grands appertises d'armes, et y furent, du coté des anglois très bons chevaliers, messire Regnault de Cobehen (Cobham) et messire Jean Chandos, et aussi furent plusieurs autres lesquels je ne puis mie tous nommer, car la delez le Prince, estoit toute fleur de chevalerie d'Angleterre.*" *

The danger appeared so great at this moment that De Bohun, the Earl of Northampton, who commanded the Second Division, sent a portion of it to support the Prince, and Sir Thomas de Norwich, a Knight of the Prince's retinue, was sent to the King to ask for aid.

Froissart's account of this episode leaves so vivid an impression of the scene that it is worth transcribing in full : "The Knight when he reached the King said, Monseigneur, the Earls of Warwick and Kenfort (Oxford) and the Lord Reginald de Cobham, who are with the Prince your son, are very hard pressed by the French, and pray that you will come to their assistance, for if the efforts now made by the enemy increase in force, they doubt whether they can withstand them." The King then spoke and asked the Knight, who was called Sir Thomas de Norwich, "Sir Thomas, is my son dead or thrown down (aterré) or wounded?" "No, Monseigneur," he answered, "if it please God, but he is very hard pressed (en dure parte d'armes) and would be very glad of your assistance." "Monsieur Thomas," said the King, "go back to him and to those who have sent you and tell them, from me, that they must not send to me for help so long as my son is alive, and tell them, that they must permit the boy to win his spurs (qu'ils laissent à l'enfant gagner ses eperons) for I wish, if the day is won, that the honour should belong to him, and to those in whose charge I have placed him."

The writ which proves that Sir Hugh Wrottesley was in the Prince's retinue at Crecy was issued in 26 Edward III in order to exonerate him from a sum assessed upon his lands for hobelars and archers in Staffordshire. It runs as follows :—

Rex etc Thesaurario et Baronibus suis de Scaccario salutem. Quia Hugo de Wrottesle Chivaler cum carissimo filio nostro Edwardo Principe Wallie in obsequium nostrum apud Hogges in Normannia applicuit et in eodem obsequio nostro tam in obsidione ville nostre

Calesie quam alibi in partibus Francie usque regressum nostrum in Anglie continue morabatur, sicut nobis bene constat, Vobis mandamus quod demande que eidem Hugone de decem marcis ad quas pro expensis quorundem Hobelariorum et Sagittariorum pro dicto obsequio nostro inveniendorum ratione terrarum et tenementorum suorum in Comitatu Staffordie assessus fuit, per summonitionem Scaccarii predicti, fieri faciatis supersederi, et ipsum inde ad idem Scaccarium prout justum fuerit exonerari et quietum esse facere, et districtiorem si quam ea occasione fieri feceritis sine dilatione relaxari faciatis eidem. Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium secundo die Octobris anno regni nostri Anglie vicesimo sexto, regni vero nostri Francie tertio decimo.

Hoc breve allocatur in Magno Rotulo de anno xxv in Staffordscira.¹

The Magnus Rotulus, *i.e.* the Pipe Roll, states under Staffordshire:—

Hugo de Wrottesley miles debet x marcas super ipsum assessas pro uno homine ad arma in Rotulo de assessis facto super dominicis anno xx sed non debet inde summoneri, per breve Regis irrotulatum in memoranda de anno xxvii Regis hujus termino Michaelis.

An order in Council of 1344 or 1345 had enacted that all who held 100s. or 10 marks' worth of land were to provide an archer, those who had £10 or 20 marks of land, to provide a hobelar, those who had £20 of land to provide two hobelars, those who had £25 of land to provide a man-at-arms, those of £30 of land a man-at-arms, and an archer, those of £40 a man-at-arms, a hobelar, and an archer, those of £50 two men-at-arms, and others in the same proportion.²

Calais surrendered on the 4 August 1347, and the King returned to England on the 14 October. The following year was signalized by the institution of the famous Order of the Garter. After the account which has been given of the part played at Crecy by the division of the Prince of Wales, it will not surprise the reader to find more than one half of the original Knights were chosen from the retinue of the Black Prince upon this occasion. These were:—

Thomas, Earl of Warwick,	Sir John Chandos,
Sir William de Montagu,	Sir Bartholomew de Burghersh,
Sir Roger de Mortimer,	Sir Richard fitz Simon,
John, Lord Mohun,	Sir Walter Paveley,
John, Lord Grey of Rotherfield,	Sir Thomas Wale,
Sir James Audley,	Sir Thomas Holland, and
Sir Hugh de Wrottesley,	Sir Otho Holland.

¹ Memoranda Roll Queen's Remembrancer, 27 Edward III. Writs of Michaelmas term. It was not enrolled until a twelvemonth had elapsed from the date of it.

² French Roll, 20 Edward III, part i, m. 35. The Commissioners for this array were appointed in 18 Edward III. *Vide* Patent Roll, 18 Edward III.

The other Knights, in addition to the King and the Prince of Wales, were :—

Henry, Earl of Lancaster,	Sir Hugh de Courtenay,
Piers de Grailly, Captal de Buch,	Sir Miles de Stapleton,
John, Lord de Lisle,	Sir Sanchio Dabrigecourt,
John, Lord Beauchamp,	Sir Niel Loryng, and
Ralph, Lord Stafford,	Sir Henry Eam of Brabant. ¹

In the following year, viz., about May 1349, a pestilence, known as the Black Death, and which was more deadly in its effects than any other recorded in history, broke out in England and lasted till the following September. There is reason to believe, from an inspection of the Clergy Rolls, that it must have carried off more than half the population of the kingdom. Thus of the incumbents of parishes in the West Riding of Yorkshire, 96 died out of 141. In the East Riding, 60 died out of 95. In Nottinghamshire, 65 died out of 126. In the Norwich Diocese, 527 died out of 799. Three Archbishops of Canterbury died one after the other within the above period, and at the Abbey of Croxton, in Lincolnshire, the whole community died except the Abbot and Prior.

¹ As many conflicting views are held respecting the date of the institution of the Order, it may be as well if I state my reasons for selecting the year 1348. The preamble to the Statutes of the Garter gives the date as 23 Edward III, or A.D. 1349, but these Statutes are not cotemporary with the foundation of the Order, they name, for instance, the *Duke of Lancaster* and the *Earl of Stafford* amongst the original Knights, and these dignities were not conferred till 1351. Froissart names the year 1344 as the date of the foundation of the Order, but he describes the number of the original Knights as forty, and is supposed to have confounded the creation of the Order with the institution of King Arthur's Round Table, which had been revived by Edward III about that date. Froissart could only speak from hearsay, for he was not born till 1337.

A strong argument against this early date is the fact that the Prince of Wales was only fourteen years of age, and was not knighted till the landing at La Hogue, when he conferred the same honour on Sir Roger Mortimer and Sir William de Montague, both of whom were original Companions of the Order.

The Chronicle of Thomas de la More, a cotemporary writer, fixes the date of the First Chapter in 1350, and this date has been accepted by Selden, Lily, Speed and Segar.

On the other hand, Anstis and Beltz have written in favour of the older date, 1344. Ashmole admits the date given in the Statutes, which is 1349.

In the face of this divergency of dates and of opinions based on them, it is best to refer to the Public Records, and it will be found that the first mention of the Garter and motto occurs on a Roll containing the Wardrobe Accounts from Mich. 21 Edward III to 31 Jan. 23 Edward III, where the following entry is to be found, about half way down the Roll :—

“Ad faciendum XII garteria de blue brondata de auro et scorio, quolibet habente dictamen Homi soyt q’ mal y pense, et ad faciendum alios apparatus pro hastiludiis Regis apud Eltham anno Regis predicto.”

The previous date mentioned in these accounts is, without doubt, 21 Edward III, or 1347, and this has misled both Anstis and Beltz, who have overlooked the fact that Edward was at Calais nearly the whole of this year, and did not arrive in England till the middle of October. The great bulk of the army did not return before November, and it is inconceivable that any tournaments could have taken place in that year. The entries on the Roll are not in chronological order, and many

Whilst the pestilence was at its height, viz., on the 16 August 1349, Sir Hugh executed a deed conveying to trustees his manor of Wrottesley and the mills of Wightwyke and Tryllemulne, and by another of the same date he conveyed to the same trustees all his goods and chattels, moveable and immoveable in the same places. On the 23rd of the same month, these trustees reconveyed the same manor and mills to "Sir Hugh, and to *her whom he had first married*,¹ and to the heirs of the body of the said Hugh," and failing such to John, son of John de Tettebury (his half brother), and to his male issue, and failing such to Walter, Thomas and Leo, his other half brothers, in succession in tail male, and failing such to his own right heirs. It would appear by this deed that his first wife Elizabeth had died, but had left issue by him. The seal attached to the first deed shews that he had relinquished at this date the Verdon fret, and had assumed in place of it the arms of his mother, Joan Basset. The shield bears the three piles and a quarter Ermine, but the crest is the same as on the deed of 1337, viz., a boar's head issuing from a ducal coronet.²

Amongst other victims, the pestilence had carried off the whole family of Sir Hugh's cousin, William de Pillatonhale. This William had left two nephews and a niece, who were

previous entries relate to the year 22 Edward III. For instance, the first entry relates to the Feast of All Saints, 21 Edward III, and the ninth entry relates to the Feast of Easter, 22 Edward III, then follow more entries relating to the year 21 Edward III, and the entry above given follows after a long interval lower down the Record. Amongst the entries ostensibly for the year 21 Edward III are issues for the King's tournaments at Reading and Bury, then follow more issues *pro corpore Regis* at Windsor *anno predicto*, and then issues for the tournament at Lichfield, *anno predicto*, viz., 21 Edward III, and then from another part of the Roll we find that the tournament at Lichfield took place on the 9 April 22 Edward III. It is quite clear, therefore, that the year xxi has been written on the Roll by mistake for xxii.

The first mention of the *Society of St. George* is to be found on the Wardrobe Accounts of the Prince of Wales. These show that the Prince presented twenty-four Garters to the Knights of the Society in 22 Edward III, viz. in 1348.

The College of St. George at Windsor was founded by Letters Patent, dated 6 August in the same year, viz., 22 Edward III, and the only other cotemporary evidence which we possess is the account of Thomas de la More, which gives the year 1350 as the date of the first Chapter of the Order. The Feast of the Round Table was held at Whitsuntide, and putting all the evidence together, it seems all but certain that the Order of the Garter was created at the Whitsuntide Festival of 1348. The first Festival of St. George after this date would not occur till April 1349, and this accounts, perhaps, for the latter date having been named in the Statutes of the Order. It should be noted, however, that the latter year is the year of the Great Pestilence, and it is quite possible that a further adjournment took place, and that Thomas de la More is right when he names 1350 as the date of the first Chapter of the Order. It is a minor circumstance, but still of some significance, that this latter date coincides with the year in which Sir Hugh Wrottesley was placed in the King's household with a pension of £40 a year.

¹ *illi que prius duxit in uxorem*. It is difficult to understand this clause of the deed.

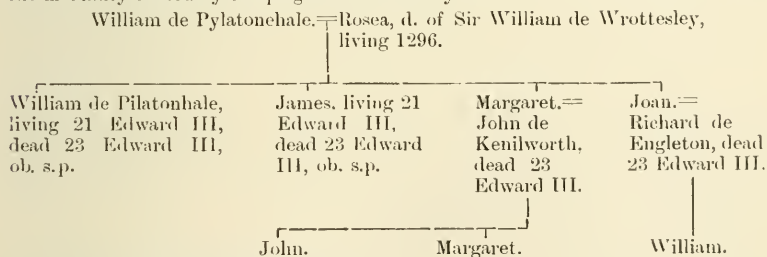
² Original deeds at Wrottesley, copied 1860, 1862. These deeds will be given in full at the end of this chapter

coheirs to the lands and Bailiwick of Teddesley, and were wards of the Crown. On the 7 September 1349 the King granted to Sir Hugh, for his good service, the Bailiwick and the lands, and the wardship and marriages of the heirs of William de Pilatonehale, deceased, which were in his hands by reason of the minority of John, son of John de Kenilworth, and of Margaret, sister of John, son of John, and of William, son of Richard de Engleton, the nearest of kin of the said William de Pilatonehale. The heirs were the issue of two sisters of William, all the male heirs and intermediate generation having been swept away by the plague.¹ The coheirs could have been only a few weeks old, for William de Engleton proved his age in 44 Edward III, and John's relief for his moiety of the Bailiwick is entered on the Pipe Roll of 45 Edward III. A writ of 28 Edward III shews that the third child Margaret had died before that date.²

William de Pilatonehale was one of the Hereditary Foresters of Cannoek, holding the Bailiwick of the Hay of Teddesley and Huntingdon, and on obtaining livery of the Bailiwick, Sir Hugh appears to have taken up his abode entirely at Pilatonehale, for his name occurs as a witness to several deeds of this date referring to that neighbourhood, and the house at Wrottesley was allowed to fall out of repair. He likewise appointed one of his tenants at Huntingdon to act as his Bailiff at Wrottesley, for four years after this date he was suing William, son of Alice atte Wode of Huntingdon, to render to him an account for the time he had acted as his Bailiff at Wrottesley.³

In the following year, 1350, we have the earliest cotemporary account of a Chapter of the Order of the Garter. The author of the Chronicle, Thomas de la More, writes apparently under the impression that the ceremony he describes was the first of its kind, and this is not unlikely to have been the case, for the plague had become general in England before St. George's Day 1349.

¹ Patent Roll, 23 Edward III. part iii, m. 33. The following pedigree will shew the mortality caused by the plague in this family :—



² Patent Roll, 28 Edward III, part i, m. 12.

³ De Banco, Trinity. 27 Edward III, m. 174 dorso.

He writes, "In this year the King celebrated a great Feast at Windsor Castle, where there were present, besides the King and his eldest son, the Earls of Northampton, Warwick, Suffolk and Salisbury, and other Barons as well as simple Knights, '*simpli-cesque milites*,' viz., Roger de Mortimer, now Earl of March, Sir Walter de Magny (Mauny), Sir William fitz Warin, Sir John de Lisle, Sir John de Mohun, Sir John de Beauchamp, Sir Walter de Paveley, Sir Thomas Wale and Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, all of whom, together with the King, were clothed in tunics of russet, powdered with Garters of a green (*sic*) color, and wearing likewise Garters on the right leg, and mantles of blue with shields of the arms of St. George. In this dress, with their heads bare, they devoutly heard mass sung by the Bishops of Canterbury, Winchester and Exeter, and afterwards sat at table to celebrate a festival in honor of the Holy Martyr and the noble Brotherhood, which had been specially instituted for this purpose and was called the Society of St. George of the Garter "*Comitiva Sancti Georgii de la Gartière (sic)*."¹

The Black Death of the previous year had left many vacancies in the Royal Household, and Sir Hugh was appointed to fill one of them in October of this year. By Letters Patent, dated 18 October 24 Edward III, the King granted to him for his good service, and for his fee, and for his attendance upon his person (*et pro feodo suo, et pro morâ suâ nobiscum*) a yearly sum of £40, to be received at the Exchequer by equal portions at Easter and Michaelmas, until such time, as rents or lands to the same value could be assigned for the payment of it to him for his life.² On the renewal of these Letters Patent in the following May, the words "*pro feodo suo*" were omitted, and the Household accounts shew that he received pay as a Knight in the Royal Household in addition to his annuity of £40.

At Easter 25 Edward III, Sir Hugh appeared in person at the Exchequer, and received £20 for the previous term of St. Michael.³ On the following 20 May, however, he obtained fresh

¹ Chronicle of Thomas de la More, Lansdowne MS., No. 229, fol. 156, dorso. The Earls of Northampton and Suffolk and Sir Walter de Mauny, are not included amongst the original Knights in the official list, but that list is not cotemporary, and de la More is more likely to be correct. The three Knights above named were among the most distinguished men of the period, and the King could hardly have left them out of the fraternity. It is noteworthy, too, that the first authentic list of the Knights in the year 1361 includes both Suffolk and de Mauny. The Earl of Northampton had died in 1360. There is reason to believe that there are many omissions in the early lists of the Knights of the Garter, thus Roger de Cotesford, a Knight of the Household of the Black Prince, and who was selected by the Prince to bring home the news of the battle of Poitiers, does not occur among them, although his seal in the Bodleian Library has the Garter and motto round his shield of arms.

² Patent Roll, 24 Edward III, part iii, m. 17.

³ Pell Issues, Easter, 25 Edward III. This grant apparently took effect from the previous 25 March, and it is curious to note that this is the rule at the present time in the case of the Civil List Pensions.

Letters Patent, which assigned the following farms in Staffordshire to him for the payment of the annuity :—

	£	s.	d.
From the vills of Mere and Clent - - -	16	5	6
From Kings Swinford - - -	11	10	6
From Kynfare and Tettenhale - - -	11	9	0
From the Foresters Fee at Teddesley - -	1	6	8

Making a total of £40 1s. 8d., and Sir Hugh was to account to the Exchequer for the difference of 20d. annually.

Mandates were likewise issued to John de Botetourt, the tenant of the vills of Mere and Clent, and to John de Sutton of Dudley, the tenant of the vill of Swinford, and to the Custos of Kynfare, and to the men of Tettenhale to pay the above sums to Sir Hugh in person.

For many years up to this date, Sir Hugh had been charged on the Pipe Rolls with various outstanding debts due to the Exchequer. The earliest of these was a sum of 100s. for a year's farm of the King's manor of Tettenhall, the custody of which had been granted to him in 11 Edward III, and a further sum of £27 13s. 2d., arrears of the farm of the same manor, charged against him, apparently owing to an error of the Exchequer authorities.

The next in date was a sum of £55 charged against him for the subsidy of wool in 13 Edward III, in which year he had exported from Ipswich several sacks of wool without license.

A fourth charge entered against him was one of 10 marks for a man-at-arms assessed upon his lands for the expedition of 1346.

The aggregate of these sums would amount to a very heavy debt owing to the Crown, representing certainly not less than £2,000 at the present date, and the Sheriff of the County, if pressed to collect arrears by the Exchequer, would distrain upon his lands and chattels for it.

Sir Hugh took advantage of the favour with which he was regarded at this time by the King, to obtain an exoneration from all these charges.

A writ was issued to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer on the 17 February 1350, in these terms :—

Edward par la grace de dieu Roi dengleterre et de Fraunce et Seigneur d Irlaunde, as Tresorer et Barouns de notre Eschequier salut, Come de notre grace especiale eions perdonnez a notre cher et feial Hugh de Wrottesle cinquante et cink livres qe courent sur lui en demande per sumouns du dit Eschequier pur la custume de vint et sept sacs de laine et demy cariez outre meere, vos mandons q de la dite somme lui faciez estre quites et deschargez devers nous, et si nulle (*sic*) destresse lui seit fait pur la dite cause loi facez outrement

relesse, donne souz notre prive seal al Westmonastere le xvii jour de Fevrier lan de notre regne dengleterre vintisme quart et de France vicisme.¹

A later writ of the same year, dated 20 October 24 Edward III, and addressed to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, states that whereas the King had granted on the 18 March 11 Edward III, to his faithful and beloved Hugh de Wrottesle, the custody of the manor of Tattenhale, in co. Stafford, to be held at his pleasure, and rendering for it 100s. annually, and afterwards on the 8 July 12 Edward III, the King had granted the same manor to Henry de Ferers, and the heirs male of his body, and it had been shewn by the said Hugh, that although he had delivered the manor to Henry de Ferers, and had derived no profit from it after the said 8th July, that nevertheless he had been summoned to appear at the Exchequer every year to render 100s. from the 18 March 11 Edward III, and had been put to great expense and trouble in consequence, for which he prayed a remedy. The King therefore commanded them to make enquiry by Inquisition or other legal methods, so that if Sir Hugh's complaint was well founded, he might be exonerated from the said yearly payment of 100s.

The Inquisition was apparently in favour of Sir Hugh, for eighteen months after this date the King sent the following writ to the Barons of the Exchequer:—

Edward par la grace de dieu, etc., as Tresorer et Barons de notre Eschequier, salut. Come de notre grace especiale, eions pardonez a notre cher et feial Hugh de Wrottesle vint et sept livres, douze soulz et deux deniers qui sont demandez de lui per sumouns du dit Eschequier des arrerages de la ferme du manoir de Tatenhale, les quex arrerages sont de partie del an de notre regne d'engleterre douzisme et desans tresisme, quatorsisme, quinsisme, seszismes et partie del an dis et septisme por queux temps Henry de Ferrers avoit le dit manoir et eut pris les issues de notre don, vos mandons que de meisme la somme de vynt et sept livres, douze soulz et deux deniers facez descharger le dit Hugh, et de tut estre quites a notre dit Eschequier issint qil ne seit mes empeschez ne grevez par reson de la somme avantdite. Don souz notre prive seal, a Westmonastere le 27 jour d'avril lan de notre regne dengleterre vint et sisme, et de France tresisme.²

Another writ, nearly in the same terms, dated 22 June 26 Edward III [1352] exonerated him from the charge of 100s. for a year's ferm of the same manor.³

A third writ, dated 2 October 26 Edward III, relieved him from the assessment on his lands for Hobelars and Archers in

¹ Memoranda Roll, Queen's Remembrancer, 25 Edward III, Michaelmas Writs.

² Memoranda Roll, Queen's Remembrancer, 26 Edward III, Writs of Michaelmas.

³ Ibid.

1346. This has already been given in full. Through some error of the Exchequer authorities, it was not enrolled till the following year, when it appears amongst the Michaelmas writs of 27 Edward III.¹

Sir Hugh was now at the height of his prosperity. All his debts to the Crown had been remitted, his income had been more than doubled by the Royal grants made to him. He had been created a Knight of the Garter, had been placed in the King's household, and would have probably risen to higher and more responsible positions, if he could have restrained a certain vindictiveness of temper and spirit of lawlessness which appears to have been inherent in his nature. Up to this time he had risen steadily in the King's favour, but within little more than a year from the date of the King's last grant to him he was a fugitive from justice and deprived of all his possessions. At this distance of time it is impossible to state in positive terms the causes of this catastrophe, but we have certain facts and indications from which a very fair inference can be drawn.

The Sheriffs of Staffordshire at this date were appointed by the Duke of Lancaster, to whom the King had granted the Shrievalty of the Midland Counties for his life, and in 1352 the Duke had appointed to this office Philip de Lutteley, of Lutley, in co. Stafford, a near neighbour of Sir Hugh, and who had married Katherine, the sister of the same John de Perton who had been killed in the affray with Sir Hugh in 1338.

It appears to have been the custom of the Exchequer to saddle a new Sheriff with the Crown debts owing during the tenure of office of his predecessor. Thus a writ on the Memoranda Roll of 26 Edward III (1352) states that whereas John le Blount, late Sheriff of co. Stafford, had been charged with a sum of 100s. said to be owing by Sir Hugh de Wroottesleye for the arrears of the ferm of Tettenhale, he was to be allowed in lieu of it, 100s. from the lands and tenements of Walter de Rydeware, late a Collector of the Aid in co. Stafford, and which were in the King's hands.²

Philip de Lutteley would thus find himself personally liable for the debts of Sir Hugh to the Crown. It is true these had all, with one exception, been remitted before Michaelmas 1352, when Philip was invested with the Shrievalty, but it is very doubtful whether, owing to the dilatory action of the Exchequer, notifications of these remissions would have reached the Sheriff

¹ Ibid., 27 Edward III, Writs of Michaelmas term.

² They had been taken into the King's hands as security for the balance of the Subsidy which had not been paid into the Exchequer by the Collectors. There is evidence on the Rolls of great pressure exercised by the Exchequer at this period on the Sheriffs of Counties and Collectors of the Subsidies in order to relieve the Crown of its heavy indebtedness on account of the French war.

before he assumed office, and in the case of the charge for supplying hobelars and archers in 1346, the notification of its remittance could not possibly have arrived, because it was not granted till the 2nd October 1352, and was not enrolled till the following year.

New brooms proverbially sweep clean, and if Philip signalled his accession to office by an energetic attempt to collect outstanding Crown debts, not aware that they had been remitted, whilst Sir Hugh, knowing his relationship to the Pertons, suspected that his action arose from personal motives, we have all the elements of a tragedy in the fourteenth century.

Sir Hugh appears to have received some intimation of a descent upon him by the Sheriff, for he had collected a considerable body of men to resist it. Like the Irish distrainments of 1880—1881, it was effected by stealth during the night, and the Sheriff attended in person. At daybreak on the 29 November the two parties met on Dunstone Heath, between Stafford and Pillatonhale, and in a conflict which ensued, the Sheriff and his clerk were both killed, whilst a third man of the Sheriff's party, Thomas de Stretton, died of his wounds a short time afterwards.

At the present day, Sir Hugh and his accomplices would have been arrested within a few days under the Coroner's warrant, but in the reign of Edward III it was not easy to enforce the ordinary criminal process against a man of property, a knight of repute, and a member of the King's household. No proceedings appear to have been taken against him in the county, but at the Easter sittings of the Court of King's Bench, Agnes, late wife of Philip de Whitemere, appeared in person and appealed Hugh de Wrotteslegh, Chivaler, John de Tettebury, the younger, William, brother of John, and Walter, brother of William, John de Derinton, and Thomas de Gatacre, and Alice, his wife, for the death of her husband. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff returned that they could not be found, and held nothing within his Bailiwick by which they could be attached. He was, therefore, ordered to put them into *exigend*, and if they did not appear, to outlaw them, and if they appeared, to arrest and produce them on the following Quindene of Michaelmas.¹ Katrine, the late wife of Philip de Lutteley, likewise appeared in person and appealed the same defendants for the death of her husband. The process was the same as in the previous case.

¹ Coram Rege Roll, Easter, 27 Edward III, m. 10. To be put into *exigend* was to be summoned at five successive County Courts, and if they did not surrender, they were proclaimed outlaws. The County Courts were held at intervals of three weeks, and were presided over by the Sheriffs.

These proceedings were probably taken on the advice of the Chief Justice, Sir William de Shareshull. As the owner of Patshull, he was a near neighbour of Philip de Lutteley, and was connected with him by the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth with Sir John de Perton. The latter was the nephew of Katrine, the widow of Philip.

The addition of the names of Thomas de Gatacre, and Alice his wife to the indictment, exemplifies the iniquity of the Criminal Courts at this date, for there is no reason to suppose they were implicated in the attack upon the Sheriff and his suite. About four years before this date Philip de Whitemere had laid claim to a large portion of the Gatacre demesne lands, and had obtained a verdict in his favour before a local jury at Shrewsbury in 1350. It would have been easy for him in his capacity of clerk to the Sheriff to have packed a jury in this case, and Thomas de Gatacre and Alice had appealed against the verdict, and this appeal was pending at this date in the Court of King's Bench.¹ On such slight grounds as these apparently, the names of Thomas and Alice had been added to the indictment as instigators of the attack upon the Sheriff, but the Chief Justices of this era were notoriously corrupt, and made large fortunes at the expense of men of property against whom indictments were laid in their Courts. Both Wroottesley and Gatacre adjoined the lands of the Chief Justice at Patshull, and the temptation of adding two or three thousand additional acres to the large estates he was accumulating in Staffordshire and Shropshire would have been irresistible to a Judge of the fourteenth century.²

Sir Hugh must have received some warning of the issue of these writs, for the subsequent proceedings shew that he had divested himself of all his moveable property, but he delayed too long his departure from the country, and before the date named for the return of the writs into Court, all the defendants were in custody, with the exception of John de Tettebury, Walter de Tettebury³ and John de Derington.

The entries on the Roll of the following Michaelmas term are as follows:—

¹ For these proceedings, see Staffordshire Collections, vol. xiv, p. 78.

² Sir John Thorpe, the predecessor of William de Shareshull, had been deprived of his office and heavily fined for malpractices of this nature, and Sir William de Shareshull was eventually dismissed for malversation of office, and retired into a monastery. The story of the acquisition of Littlecote, by Chief Justice Popham, after a murder committed by the owner, Wild Dayrell, is well known.

³ Walter de Tettebury was in the Household of Queen Philippa, and was pardoned by the King, and his outlawry annulled in 34 Edward III (1360). John de Derington was an outlaw from County Chester, and was probably in Sir Hugh's service, for it was alleged against the latter on a later occasion that he kept a number of outlaws from Lancashire and Chester in his service. None of the defendants named after the word "together," were in custody.

Staff. Hugh de Wrotteslegh, Chivaler, William, brother of John de Tettebury, the younger, Thomas de Gatacre and Alice, his wife, were attached at the suit of Agnes, formerly wife of Philip de Whitemere, together with John de Tettebury, the younger, and Walter, brother of the said William, and John de Derynton, for the death of Philip, her husband, and the sureties for the prosecution were Robert Knote and Richard de Sutton.

And Agnes appeared in person and appealed the said William, brother of John de Tettebury, for the death of her husband, and stated that whereas the said Philip was in the peace of God and of the King on the Thursday before the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, 26 Edward III, in the first hour of the day in the vill of Dunston, on the high road which runs from the vill of Dunston to the vill of Pencrych, and going towards the vill of Stafford, the said William lying in wait, with malice aforethought, had feloniously struck the said Philip with a sword of Cologne through the middle of the body to the heart, and so that he died forthwith within the arms of the said Agnes.¹ And as soon as the said William had committed the felony he fled, and she had followed immediately with hue and cry from vill to vill up to the four nearest villis, and eventually to the Coroners until the said William had been attached at her suit.¹

The said Agnes appealed Hugh de Wrotteslegh for the same death, and stated that at sunrise on the said day he had sent the said William and John de Tettebury and Walter, brothers of William, and John de Derynton, who had been named in the original writ and had been outlawed, to commit the said felony, and likewise for aiding and abetting it, inasmuch as the said Hugh was present with a drawn sword in his right hand, and gave aid to the said William and the others named, in committing the felony, and likewise for knowingly receiving the said William and John de Tettebury, and Walter and John de Derynton, at Wrotteslegh after the perpetration of the felony.

The same Agnes likewise appealed Thomas Gatacre and Alice, his wife, for sending the said William and others to commit the felony, and for knowingly receiving them afterwards in divers places of the said county.

And William and the other defendants denied the felony, and put themselves on the country, and the Sheriff was ordered to summon a jury for the Octaves of St. Hillary,

¹ These words, "inter brachia ipsius Agnetis," and the following paragraph are formal only, being the necessary part of an Indictment in an appeal of murder.

and the said Hugh and the others were committed in the meantime to the King's prison of the Marshalsea in the custody of Robert Bolour.¹

Similar proceedings were taken against the same defendants on the suit of Katharine, late wife of Philip de Lutteley. The record of these is the same *verbatim* as the above, but with the addition that Philip was in the service of the King as Sub-Sheriff and Coroner of co. Stafford—*in servitio domini Regis ad Comitatum Staffordie tanquam Sub-vicecomes et Coronator ejusdem Comitatus*.¹

As the Sheriff's party were on the high road at daybreak, it is probable that a distraint had been levied during the night, and they were driving the cattle in the direction of Stafford. In that case, the conflict must have arisen from an attempt on the part of Sir Hugh to rescue his cattle.

Some entries on the same Roll of a few days later date give us the continuation of the proceedings.

Staff. The King sent a close writ to the Sheriff of co. Stafford, that whereas he had lately commanded him to make enquiry on the oath of lawful and honest men concerning the goods and chattels, and lands and tenements, which Hugh de Wrottesleye, Chivaler, held in his county on the 10 April last, and subsequently, inasmuch as the said Hugh had not appeared, *coram Rege*, to answer the appeal of Katrine, formerly wife of Philip de Lutteleye, for the death of her husband, and for which he had been put into *exigend* and outlawed; and to return the value of the same on the Quindene of the Holy Trinity, and the Sheriff had returned at that date that the said Hugh before the arrival of the King's writ had dispossessed himself of all lands and tenements which he held within his bailiwick, except a rent of £40 which he held of the King, and which the King had taken into his hands, and the King, believing the said return to be false and fabricated, because it had been testified to him by men worthy of credit that the said Hugh had in no wise demised himself of his lands and tenements, except by deceit and collusion to defraud the King of the issues of the lands which belonged to him owing to the flight of the said Hugh, and that the said Hugh had received the profits of the lands and tenements up to the present time through carelessness (*nemencia*), he was therefore commanded to take into the King's hands all the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of the said Hugh into whosoever hand they may have come, and to be answerable for them until further orders, and to appear in person, *coram Rege*, at this date, to answer for the false

¹ *Coram Rege* Roll, Michaelmas, 27 Edward III, m. 8 dorso and m. 20 dorso.

return. Tested by William de Shareshulle at Westminster 15 Sept., 27 Edward III, by writ of privy seal (*per breve de segreto [sic] sigillo domini Regis*).

The Sheriff answered in these words :—"By virtue of the above writ I have taken into the King's hand, of goods and chattels found in the manor of Wrottesleye, eighteen oxen for the plough, each worth 9s. 6*d.*, two cart horses, each worth 6s. 8*d.*, twenty quarters of wheat in the granges, each quarter estimated to be worth 4s., fourteen quarters of *juxtilion*, each quarter estimated at 3s., fifteen quarters of barley, each quarter estimated at 3s., seven quarters of beans, each quarter estimated at 3s., eighteen quarters of peas, estimated value of each quarter, 2s., and twenty-four quarters of oats, each quarter estimated at 22*d.*

I have taken also of the lands and tenements of Hugh de Wrottesleye at Wrottesleye, a messuage with gardens, worth annually beyond reprisals 5s. and no more, because the houses are in ruins, a pigeon-house worth half a mark annually, three carucates of land, each worth 40s. per annum and no more, because the third part of the three carucates lies fallow every year (*ad warectam*), eighteen acres of meadow, of which each acre is worth 2s., three enclosed parks, of which the herbage is worth 30s. annually and no more, because they are stocked with wild beasts, a watermill which is worth nothing annually, because it is in a ruinous state, and 40s. rent from the natives, which is received annually at Michaelmas and Lady Day. I have taken also into my hands eight marks of annual rent received by the said Hugh from the tenants of Boturdon (Butterton-on-the-Moors) at the Feasts of St. Michael and the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary every year."¹

Sir Hugh and his half-brother had been committed to the Marshalsea shortly after the Quindene of Michaelmas, which would be the 12th of September. Within little more than six weeks from this date, both prisoners were at large, with the connivance, no doubt, of Sir Walter Mauny, the Marshal of the Court, under whom Sir Hugh had served in Brittany in 1342. Sir Walter, in fact, who held the office of Marshal for his life, under Letters Patent, was in the habit of releasing his prisoners on condition of their serving the King in France, and in 1342 he had allowed as many as ninety-eight prisoners to be at large upon these conditions.²

The story of their escape is given as follows on the Roll :—

¹ *Ibid.*, m. 41 Rex.

² Sir Walter de Mauny had been appointed Sergeant Marshal by Thomas Plantagenet, the Earl Marshal and Earl of Norfolk, in 1331. He afterwards married the widow of Lord Segrave who was daughter and heir of the Earl,

Staff., Surrey, London. On the Thursday after the Morrow of St. Martin, 27 Edward III, Simon de Kegworth, the Clerk and Coroner of the King, by command of the Justices holding Pleas before the King, proceeded to the prison of the King's Marshal at Kyngeston upon Thames, where the said Justices were holding Pleas, and made a scrutiny of the prisoners in the custody of Robert Bolour, the Marshal, when the said Simon found that Hugh de Wrottesleye, Chivaler, and William, brother of John de Tettebury, the younger, who had been severally appealed for the death of Philip de Whitemere, at the suit of Agnes, formerly wife of Philip, and likewise for the death of Philip de Lutteleye at the suit of Katrine, formerly wife of the said Philip, by divers writs of the King, and had been committed to the custody of the said Marshal, were not in prison there (*ibidem in prisonā non exstiterunt*) and afterwards on the Friday following, the said Marshal being questioned whether the said Hugh and William were in the King's prison in his custody or not, stated that they had broken out of prison on the Sunday, the Morrow of All Souls in this term, in London, viz., in the parish of St. Andrew in Holburne, in the ward of Farindon without, where they were detained in prison with other prisoners. The said Marshal was therefore fined £10. And Simon de Kegworthe, on the part of the King, stated that the Marshal had permitted the said Hugh and William to escape and had consented to the escape, which he was prepared to prove by a jury of the above ward and parish. A jury was therefore to be summoned, *coram Rege*, on the Octaves of St. Hillary, unless William de Shareshulle should first come to St. Martin the Grand of London on the Tuesday after the Feast of St. Andrew. A postscript states that at Hillary Term the said Robert appeared in person, *coram Rege*, and William de Shareshulle brought up the verdict of a jury taken before him on the above Tuesday (John Morton having been associated with him according to the Statute), who stated upon oath that the said Hugh and William had feloniously escaped from the King's prison of the Marshalsea without the license of the said Robert and against his will, viz., on the Morrow of All Souls, 27 Edward III, in the suburb of London and in the said parish and ward. The said Robert was therefore quit of the felony, and the Sheriffs of London were ordered to arrest the said Hugh and William

and cousin to the King. In 1344 an attempt had been made to deprive him of the Marshalship of the King's Bench, and he had procured Letters Patent granting it to him for his life. *Coram Rege* Roll, Michaelmas 16 Edward III, m. 54, Rex, and Staffordshire Collections, vol. xiv, pp. 27—58, and 59.

and produce them *coram Rege* on the Quindene of St. John the Baptist.¹

At Hillary term following, the process against Sir Hugh and his half-brother was continued as follows:—

Staff. The Sheriff had been ordered to summon a jury for this date to return a verdict whether William de Tettebury, brother of John de Tettebury, the younger, on the Thursday before the Feast of St. Andrew, 26 Edward III, had feloniously killed Philip, formerly husband of Katrine de Luttelegh, who was on his way to the vill of Stafford in the service of the King as Sub-Sheriff and Coroner of the County, and if Hugh de Wrotteslegh, Chivaler, at sunrise on the same day had sent the said William, brother of John de Tettebury, the younger, Walter, brother of the said William and John de Derynton (who had been named in the original writ and had been outlawed for the said death) to commit the said felony, and if the said Hugh was present with his sword drawn, and aided and abetted the said William and the others named, and if the said Hugh after the felony had knowingly received the said William and the others in divers places, and also to return a verdict whether Thomas Gatacre and Alice, his wife, had sent the said William and the others named to commit the said felony and had knowingly received them afterwards. And the Sheriff returned that the writ reached him too late, and Katrine appeared in person, and Thomas Gatacre and Alice appeared, brought up by the Marshal. And the said Hugh and William who had been committed to the custody of the Marshal did not appear, and the Marshal being questioned stated that they had feloniously broken out of the prison of the Marshalsea, as appeared by an Inquisition which had been taken elsewhere. The Sheriff was therefore ordered to put the said Hugh and William into *exigend*, and if they did not appear to outlaw them, and if they appeared, to produce them, *Coram Rege*, on the Quindene of St. John the Baptist, and to summon a jury for the same date, and Thomas de Gatacre and Alice were committed to the custody of the Marshal.

The same process was followed in the appeal of Agnes, late wife of Philip de Whitmere.²

At the same Hillary Sittings, Agnes, late wife of Philip de Whitmere, appeared in person and appealed John de Stevynton, Roger, son of Geoffrey Leveson, Richard Leveson, John Russel, John de Whiston, and John Broke, for the death of her husband, and the Sheriff returned that with

¹ Coram Rege Roll, Michaelmas, 27 Edward III, m. 37 dorso, Rex.

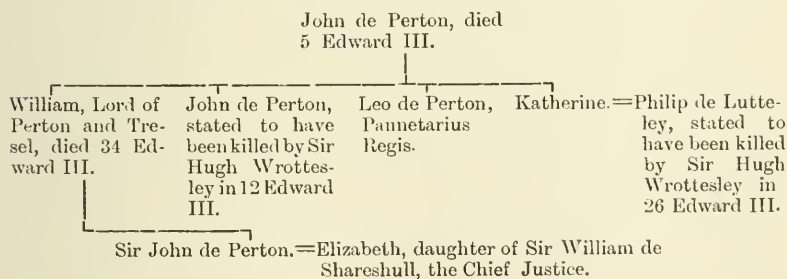
² Coram Rege, Hill., 28 Edward III, m. 9, dorso.

the exception of John de Whiston, they could not be found within his bailiwick. He was therefore ordered to put them into *exigent*, and if they did not appear, to outlaw them, and if they appeared, to produce them before the Court on the Quindene of St. John the Baptist, and as the Sheriff (Sir John Musard) had failed to make any return respecting John de Whiston, he was fined half a mark, and was ordered to arrest and produce him on the same date.¹

There appears to have been no justification for this prosecution eighteen months after the date of the alleged felony. Nor was it followed up. Most of the defendants were men of substance, John de Stevynton was a Shropshire Esquire and Forester of Kinver, John de Whiston was Lord of the Manor of Whiston, and the Levesons, even at this early date, held considerable property in Wolverhampton and Willenhall. The prosecution, in fact, is one of numberless other instances, which mark the abuse of the administration of justice at this period, when the Judges enriched themselves with impunity at the expense of any men of property who were indicted of offences in their Courts.

The Record of Trinity term, 28 Edward III, contains the process of outlawry which had been promulgated in co. Stafford against Sir Hugh de Wrottesley and William de Tettebury, upon which Katrine de Lutteley and Agnes de Whitmere both appeared in person, *Coram Rege*, and prayed for execution of the outlawry against both defendants.

The latter were now in great peril, if they could have been caught, for by a recent enactment, they had lost their right to a jury, and could be sentenced to death without further formality. The above proceedings contrast so strongly with the usual dilatory process of the Court, that I suspect there was some animus on the part of the Chief Justice, Sir William de Shareshull, who, as will be seen by the following pedigree, was connected by marriage with Philip de Lutteley and the family of Perton:—



¹ *Coram Rege*, Hillary, 28 Edward III, m. 9.

Sir Hugh de Wrotesley, however, had ensured his safety by flight into Brittany, where a desultory warfare was still carried on between the adherents of John de Montfort and those of Charles de Blois. Here, however, his usual good fortune deserted him, and before June 1354 he had been taken prisoner by the French. His situation at this time in the hands of enemies, without means of raising money for his ransom or even for his maintenance, must have been deplorable, but, fortunately for him, war had broken out again between France and England; and Sir Thomas de Holland had been sent to Brittany as the King's Lieutenant. Sir Thomas, like himself, was a member of the King's Household and a Knight of the Garter. Through his instrumentality, without doubt, the King became aware of his situation, for it will be seen that at the date of the King's writ Sir Hugh was still a prisoner.

A postscript to the last proceedings against him, *Coram Rege*, states that on the Quindene of St. Michael, 29 Edward III (13 October 1355) Hugh de Wroteslegh appeared in Court, and was committed to the Marshalsea, and being brought before the Court, in custody of the Marshal, he was asked why judgment of death should not be pronounced against him on account of the outlawries promulgated against him on the appeals of Agnes, late wife of Philip de Whitemere, and Katrine, late wife of Philip de Luttelegh, and he stated that on the Thursday when he was outlawed, and both before and after that date he was in Brittany in the service of the King, and had been taken prisoner by the French, so that he could not appear on the said Thursday at Stafford, and he produced the King's writ addressed to the Justices, which was in these words. Here follows the King's writ, dated from Westminster, 6 July, 28 Edward III (1354) stating that it had been shown to the King *ex parte* Hugh de Wroteslegh, Chivaler, that whereas on account of the process and outlawry against him of Katrine, late wife of Philip de Lutteleye, for the death of her husband, and likewise on account of the process of appeal against him by Agnes, late wife of Philip de Whitemere, he had been put into *exigend* in the County of Stafford, and had been outlawed, and he had petitioned the King to the effect that at the date of the outlawry he was in the King's service at Brittany, and he had been taken prisoner in the war there. And it had been made fully evident to the King that the said Hugh was in his service and had been taken prisoner by the King's enemies, and was a prisoner on the Thursday after the Feast of St. Barnabas (15 June 1354) on which day it was stated he had been outlawed, and that he was still a prisoner there

up to this time, "*et ibidem adhuc prisonarius existet*," the King therefore commanded the Justices to take steps to annul the outlawry according to law and the custom of the kingdom. And the above writ having been inspected and read, and inasmuch as the King had put on record that of his certain knowledge the said Hugh had been in his service in Brittany on the Thursday in question, and both before and after, and had been taken prisoner by the King's enemies in France, so that he could not have been at Stafford on the said Thursday, it was considered that the outlawries promulgated against him should be revoked and entirely annulled as void and erroneous (*tantumquam irrita et erronee*), and that the said Hugh should be restored to the common law and to the King's peace, and likewise to all actions real and personal, and that he should repossess all the lands and tenements he held before the outlawries had been promulgated.¹

These proceedings simply annulled Sir Hugh's outlawry, but left him still subject to the appeals of Agnes and Katrine for the deaths of their husbands. A postscript, however, to the Proceedings, Coram Rege, against him of Michaelmas term 27 Edward III, states that on the Quindene of St. Michael, 29 Edward III (13 Octo. 1355) Hugh de Wrottesley appeared in Court and stated that the King had pardoned him, and he produced Letters Patent, dated from Westminster on the 5 March 29 Edward III (1355), by which the King of his special grace pardoned Sir Hugh de Wrottesleye, Chivaler, for the deaths of Philip de Lutteleye and Philip de Whitemere, and for breaking out of his prison of the Marshalsea, and likewise for the reception of John de Tettebury, William de Tettebury, and Walter de Tettebury, who had been indicted for the same deaths, and likewise for the death of Thomas de Stretton, and for any transgressions of vert and venison in the King's forests.²

This pardon is entered on the Patent Rolls of this year, with a note in the margin, stating that a previous pardon had been granted under a writ of Privy Seal, dated the 13 February.³ Sir Hugh therefore had been set free from his captivity before the 13 February 1355. Walter de Tettebury, his half brother, was pardoned by the King in 34 Edward III, on account of his good service in France. William de Tettebury and the other brother John disappear from the scene altogether after these events. Sir Hugh's

¹ Coram Rege, Trinity, 28 Edward III, m. 90.

² Coram Rege Roll, Michaelmas, 27 Edward III, m. 37 dorso.

³ This pardon is recorded on the Patent Roll of 29 Edward III, part i, m. 20. The first pardon does not mention the death of Thomas de Stretton.

pension was restored to him by a writ dated the same day as the above pardon, and a close writ of the same date (5 March 1355) addressed to Sir John Buttetourt, the tenant of Mere and Clent, directs him to restore to Sir Hugh de Wrottesley the rents of the said fanns. Other writs of the same date, addressed to Sir John Sutton, of Dudley, and to the Bailiff of Kinfare, order them to pay to Sir Hugh the fanns of Mere, Clent, Swynford and Kynfare, to be held by the said Hugh according to the tenor of the Letters Patent of 20 May 25 Edward III.

Three days after these writs had been issued, viz., on the 8 March 1355, Sir Hugh appeared in person in the King's Chancery and entered into a recognizance, under a penalty of £2,000, not to molest in future Katrine de Lutteley, Philip de Lutteley, William de Perton, John de Perton, or Leon de Perton.¹ All his lands and chattels were restored to him by a writ dated the 24 November 1355, and writs of later date restored to him the rents of his fanns for the period they had been in the King's hands. Sir Hugh was at Wrottesley on the 8 April 1356, for on that date he executed a deed placing all his property into the hands of three Chaplains, who were to pay him each year at Michaelmas an annual rent of 400 "*livres d'argent*."² As his whole property did not exceed £30 in annual value, this sum must have been payable in the "*livre tournois*," which was worth about the twentieth part of the pound sterling, and formed the current coin of the south of France. From the terms of the deed Sir Hugh was evidently contemplating a prolonged absence from England, and there is every reason to believe that he joined the Black Prince in Gascony at this date, for some household accounts of that Prince, printed by Beltz, in his Memorials of the Garter, and which extend over the years 1355 to 1359, shew that during this interval an issue was made from the Prince's wardrobe to "*Monsieur Hugh de Wrotteslee 1 peir plates coverts de noir velvet*." If this was the case, he was probably at Poitiers, for that battle was fought on the 19 September 1356.³

¹ Original recognizance in French under the Great Seal at Wrottesley, copied 1860. It was drawn up in the form of an Indenture, and ends:—"En testmoignace de quele chose, notre Seigneur le Roi a la partie de ceste Endente demoraunt dens le'dit Monsr. Hugh ad mys son seal, e a la partie de ceste Endente demoraunt denz le dit Seigneur le Roi, le dit Hugh ad mys son seal," etc.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860—1862.

³ A pair of plates would be the breast plate and back plate, and this entry seems to shew that the Prince's name was derived from his black armour and not from his complexion. The same account contains gifts made to Sir Niel Loryng for his good service at Poitiers, and Sir Niel, like Sir Hugh, was in the King's household.

The Prince entered into indentures with his father to serve the King in 1355 with 433 men-at-arms and 700 archers, of which 400 were to be mounted,

Before his departure from England he obtained from the King a remittance of the Fine imposed upon the Deputy Marshal, Robert Bolour, for connivance at his escape from the Marshalsea. A writ was sent by the King to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, stating that he had pardoned Sir Hugh de Wrottesley all forfeitures of goods and chattels, and issues of his lands and tenements, which were in the King's hands, by reason of the outlawry of Sir Hugh for the deaths of Philip de Lutteley, and of Philip de Whitmere, and for breaking out of the Marshalsea, in which he had been detained; and at the request of the same Hugh, the King pardoned Robert Bolour, late Custos of the said Prison, whatever was owing to him for the escape of the said Hugh and of William, his brother. Dated Westminster, 11 July, 30 Edward III (1356).¹

A truce was concluded with France on the 23 March 1357, and the Black Prince returned to England with his prisoner, the King of France, and made a triumphal entry into London on the twenty-fifth of the same month. There is no sign of the presence of Sir Hugh in England till the 15 November of the same year, on which date a writ from the King to the Barons of the Exchequer, directs them to exonerate him from his bond for £2,000, in which sum he was bound "*pro securitate boni gestus predicti Hugonis, et non pro alia de causa.*"² This writ brings to a close the story of the deaths of Philip de Lutteley and his companions, so far as Hugh de Wrottesley was concerned. Lord Campbell, in his "*Lives of the Chancellors,*" observes that "the appeal of murder was always considered an odious proceeding, being a species of private revenge, as the Crown had no power of pardon. It was abolished in the reign of George IV."³ The King, in fact, could only pardon the trespass against the Crown, and such a pardon would leave the appeal of a widow still in force. These appeals, however, were usually withdrawn after a time, the offenders giving compensation to the murdered men's relations and paying for several masses for their souls. At Michaelmas term 29 Edward III

and these were to be in addition to the men-at-arms and archers of the following Earls and Bannerets, viz. :—The Earls of Warwick, Suffolk, Oxford and Salisbury, John de Lisle and Reginald de Cobham.

These indentures are dated the 10 July 29 Edward III. According to Stow's Chronicle the Prince sailed from Plymouth in October 1355.

¹ Memoranda Roll, Queen's Remembrancer, 30 Edward III, m. 8 of Michaelmas writs.

² Memoranda Rolls, Queen's Remembrancer, 32 Edward III.

³ "*Lives of the Chancellors,*" vol. iv, p. 281. If, therefore, my surmise is correct, and there was animus on the part of the Chief Justice, this will account for the course of procedure adopted. Sir William Shareshull must have foreseen that the King would pardon Sir Hugh if he had the power.

the Sheriff of co. Stafford, was ordered to arrest Alice, formerly wife of Philip de Whitemere, and produce her *Coram Rege* to make fine with the King for not prosecuting her appeal against Hugh de Wrottesleye and others for the death of her husband.¹ And another writ of Easter term, 32 Edward III, directs the Sheriff to do the same with Katrine, formerly wife of Philip de Lutteley.²

Thomas de Gatacre and his wife Alice, did not escape so easily. The proceedings against them in the Court of King's Bench continued for many years longer, and fresh charges were brought up against them.³ The unfortunate Thomas appears to have died in prison, and there is a piteous appeal from his widow, dated from the Fleet Prison fifteen years after this date, in which she complains that through want of money she is unable to obtain a jury, and the King directs John Knyvet, the new Chief Justice, to move her trial to be heard before the Justices of Assize in co. Stafford. The King's writ states that it was issued on the supplication of Alice, because the "*Juratores in hac parte coram nobis ad ipsius deliberationem faciendum, propter inopiam et miseriam suam venire non curant, et ipsa ea occasione in dicta prisiona extunc detinebatur et detineatur hucusque in ipsius Alicie dispendum non modicum et vite sue periculum manifestum.*"⁴

The Fleet Prison was notoriously unhealthy, being bounded on one side by the Fleet ditch, which received all the refuse and sewage of the city.

On the expiration of the truce with France in 1359, Edward sailed from Sandwich to Calais with 1,100 ships, conveying what was probably the best equipped army which had hitherto left the English shores, for the King on this occasion was accompanied by a complete transport train of wagons.

From Calais he marched to Rheims, but was unable to take that place, and after seven weeks' investment he raised the siege and moved into Burgundy, where he spent the winter. In the following spring he advanced to the walls of Paris, and burnt the suburbs. The Dauphin, however, refused all his proposals for peace, and he broke up his camp and marched towards Brittany. In the neighbourhood of Chartres his army was overtaken by one of the most

¹ Coram Rege Roll, Michaelmas, 29 Edward III, m. 4, Rex.

² Coram Rege Roll, Easter, 32 Edward III, m. 11, Rex.

³ See vol. xiv, Staffordshire Collections, p. 111.

⁴ Coram Rege, Easter, 45 Edward III. Thomas and Alice had been released on bail in 32 Edward III, but when fresh charges were preferred against them they were again arrested.

fearful tempests recorded in history, and, according to Knighton, 6,000 horses were killed by cold, exposure, and hail and lightning. Froissart says of this tempest, "*un orage si grand et si horrible descendit du ciel en l'ost du Roi d'Angleterre, que il sembla bien proprement, que le siècle dut finir, car il chéoit de lair pierres si grosses que elles tueient hommes et chevaux, et en furent les plus hardis tout ebahis*" The King in a fit of remorse vowed he would refuse no terms of peace which were compatible with his honor, and on the 8th May peace was signed at Bretigny. The accounts of William de Farley, the Keeper of the King's Wardrobe, during this expedition have been preserved, and they shew that Sir Hugh accompanied the King during the whole of it, in the double capacity of a member of the Household and of a Knight in the King's retinue. In the former capacity he received a commuted payment in lieu of robes and fees, and in the latter capacity he was paid wages of war, or "*vadia guerre*" for himself at 2s. a day, two Esquires, each at 1s. a day, and for four mounted Archers, each at 6d. a day.

The King's Household consisted of ten Bannerets, who are called *Banneretti Regis*, each of whom received an allowance of £10 13s. 3d. for winter robes in 33 Edward III and for summer robes in 34 Edward III. The fee for each Banneret for the Easter and Michaelmas term was £13 6s. 8d.

The Knights of the Household, who are styled "*Milites camere Regis*," were thirty-six in number, and each of these received an allowance of 106s. 8d. for their robes, and the fee of each Knight for the Easter and Michaelmas quarters was £8 13s. 4d. Under the heading of "*Vadia guerre*" their military pay is set down, and amongst these entries is the following:—

To Hugh de Wrotesle, Kt., for his wages of war at 2s., for two Esquires each at 12d., and four Archers each at 6d. a day from the 1 October up to the 13 May—each day included, viz., for 227 days, £68 2s. 0d.

And for a reward for himself and his men-at-arms for the same time, £16 7s. 8d., and for the passage back of his nine horses from Calais to Sandwich, 30s.

Another entry under the heading of "*Debita per billas*," states that £85 12s. 3d. was owing to Sir Hugh Wrotesley.

As the Keeper of the Wardrobe acted as Paymaster to the King's troops, these accounts likewise give us the composition of the force, and as it is the only document of the kind extant at the Record Office of the time of Edward III, I propose to give an abstract of its contents. The King was accompanied by:—

The Prince of Wales, who had in his suite 7 Bannerets, 136 Knights, 443 Esquires, and 900 Archers on horseback.

The Duke of Lancaster, whose retinue consisted of 6 Bannerets, 90 Knights, 486 Esquires, and 423 mounted Archers.

The Earl of Ulster (the King's son), who had a retinue of 1 Banneret, 6 Knights, 32 Esquires, and 40 mounted Archers.

The Earl of Richmond (the King's son), who had in his suite 2 Bannerets, 35 Knights, 162 Esquires, and 200 mounted Archers.

Edmund de Langeley (the King's son), who had a retinue of 6 Knights, 15 Esquires, and 46 Archers on horseback.

The Earl of Northampton, who had in his train 2 Bannerets, 29 Knights, 126 Esquires, and 200 mounted Archers.

The Earl of March, who had 6 Bannerets, 61 Knights, 232 Esquires, and 300 Archers on horseback.

The Earl of Suffolk, with 19 Knights, 40 Esquires, and 60 Archers on horseback.

The Earl of Warwick, with 1 Banneret, 36 Knights, 82 Esquires, and 120 Archers on horseback.

The Earl of Stafford, with 3 Bannerets, 30 Knights, 86 Esquires, and 120 Archers on horseback.

The Earl of Salisbury, with 15 Knights, 34 Esquires, and 50 Archers on horseback.

The Earl D'Achely, with 1 Knight, 8 Esquires, and 10 Archers, and the Earl of Arundel, whose retinue is not given.

The Prince of Wales was paid 20s. a day.

The Duke of Lancaster was paid... .. 13s. 4d. a day.

An Earl was paid 6s. 8d. a day.

A Banneret 4s. 0d. a day.

A Knight 2s. 0d. a day.

An Esquire 1s. 0d. a day.

A mounted Archer 6d. a day.

The Bannerets named in the accounts and their retinues were as follows:—

Henry de Percy, with 12 Knights, 56 Esquires, and 70 mounted Archers.

Edward le Despencer, with 12 Knights, 47 Esquires, and 60 mounted Archers.

Walter de Mauny, with 6 Knights, 20 Esquires, and 60 mounted Archers.

Guy de Brienne, with 6 Knights, 38 Esquires, and 56 mounted Archers.

Reginald de Cobham, with 8 Knights, 31 Esquires, and 40 mounted Archers.

Ralph Basset (of Drayton), with 11 Knights, 21 Esquires, and 40 mounted Archers.

Michael de Ponynges, with 4 Knights, 15 Esquires, and 20 mounted Archers.

Nicholas Burnell, with 2 Knights, 11 Esquires, and 20 mounted Archers.

John de Cobham, with 2 Knights, 22 Esquires, and 28 mounted Archers.

John de Beauchamp, with 9 Knights, 20 Esquires, and 30 mounted Archers.

William la Zouche, with 11 Knights, 35 Esquires, and 40 mounted Archers.

John de Cherleton, with 9 Knights, 30 Esquires, and 40 mounted Archers.

Reginald de Grey, with 7 Knights, 19 Esquires, and 24 mounted Archers.

William Latymer, with 4 Knights, 25 Esquires, and 60 mounted Archers.

Robert de Morle (Morley), with 7 Knights, 22 Esquires, and 30 mounted Archers.

Aylmer de St. Amand, with 3 Knights, 17 Esquires, and 21 mounted Archers.

John Kiriell, with 4 Knights, 11 Esquires, and 15 mounted Archers.

Thomas de Ughtred and John de Ferrars. The retinues of these two are not given.

William de Farley, the Keeper of the Wardrobe, had a retinue of 14 Esquires and 37 mounted Archers.

John de Wyntwike, the Keeper of the Privy Seal, had 14 Esquires and 15 mounted Archers.

Henry de Walton, formerly Keeper of the Wardrobe, who held some place in the Household, had 16 Esquires and 61 mounted Archers.

Francon van Hale, had 18 Knights and 218 Esquires.

William de Groucy, had 1 Knight and 12 Esquires.

William Graunson, had 6 Knights and 14 Esquires.

Henry de Flaunders, had 1 Banneret, 18 Knights and 73 Esquires, and

The Lord de Guiminy or de Gomeny, who had 50 Esquires in his suite.

The last five were foreigners, and it will be noted that they had no mounted archers in their train. The mounted archer was essentially an English force, and one on which depended in a great measure the efficiency of the armies of Edward III. It consisted of the younger sons and tenants of the landed proprietors, and the ancient freeholders in the counties, who had been accustomed to ride and to the use of the bow from their childhood. These men were able to scour the country for miles in front and on the flanks of the English army, and sweeping in all the produce of the country, enabled the

armies of Edward III to move rapidly without the incumbrance of a transport train. This important force has been hitherto overlooked by writers on mediæval warfare.

The Bannerets of the King's Household were:—

Edward le Despencer,	Guy de Brienne,
William la Zouche,	William Latymer,
John de Cherleton,	Reginald de Grey,
Nicholas Burnel,	Aylmer de St. Amand, and
John de Beauchamp,	Thomas de Ughtred.

The Knights of the Household consisted of the following:—

Sir Richard la Vache,	Thomas St. Leger,
Peter de Breux or de Breosa,	Thomas de Swynnerton,
Richard de Pembrugge,	Denis de Morbek,
Miles de Stapleton,	John Brocas,
Nicholas de Loveigne,	Thomas Moigne,
Thomas de Kyngestone,	William de Overton,
Edward de Kendale,	Thomas de Hoggeshawe,
John de Potenhale,	Thomas de Berkele,
John de Cherleton le fitz,	Hugh de Wrottesley,
Gilbert le Despencer,	John de Chaundos,
Thomas de Murreaux (Murray),	Guy de Warwick,
Thomas de Veer,	John de Burley,
Thomas de Beauchamp,	Andrew Luterell,
Simon Basset,	Robert de Lisle,
John Pecche,	Edward St. John,
John, son of Giles de	Henry de Beaumont,
Beauchamp,	John Marmion, and
William de Say,	Richard Zouche.
Henry de Grey,	

Besides these Knights, the King had in his retinue 26 other English Knights and 78 foreign Knights. The retinues of the English Knights varied from 6 Knights, 54 Esquires, and 36 Archers brought into the field by Sir John Chandos, down to a single Archer which formed the retinue of Sir John de Thorpe.

The Knights of most note after Sir John Chandos, were:—

Sir Richard la Vache, the King's Standard Bearer, afterwards a Knight of the Garter and Constable of the Tower of London, who had a suite of 9 Esquires and 10 mounted Archers.

Sir Guy de Warwick, the eldest son of the Earl of Warwick, had a suite of 1 Knight, 6 Esquires, and 10 Archers.

Sir Thomas de Beauchamp, the younger son of the Earl of Warwick, had a suite of 2 Esquires and 3 Archers. This Thomas succeeded his father in the Earldom, and played an important part in the history of the following reign.

Sir Richard de Pembrugge, K.G., with 2 Esquires and 6 mounted Archers.

Sir John de Burley, afterwards K.G., with 3 Esquires and 3 mounted Archers.

Sir John Brocas, afterwards K.G., with 3 Esquires and 4 Archers.

Sir Denis de Morbek, who took King John of France prisoner at Poitiers.

Sir Thomas de Hoggeshawe, afterwards a Banneret, who had in his train 2 Esquires and 3 mounted Archers.

Sir Miles de Stapleton, K.G., who had 1 Knight, 7 Esquires and 10 Archers.

Sir Thomas de Berkeley, with 3 Esquires and 4 mounted Archers.

Sir Thomas de Swynnerton, with 5 Esquires and 6 Archers, and Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, K.G., who brought into the field 2 Esquires and 4 Archers.

Amongst the Knights of the King's retinue were some cadets of good families who had commenced with the pay of $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. a day and an Archer at 6d. a day, thus:—

Sir John Tichebourne's pay started at $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. a day, and he had with him a mounted Archer at 6d. a day. After he was knighted he received 2s. a day, and retained his Archer at 6d.

Sir Oliver Brocas started with pay at $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. a day and with 6 mounted Archers, each at 6d. a day. After he was knighted his retinue consisted of 2 Esquires and 6 mounted Archers.

Sir Thomas de Murreaux (Murray) le fitz started with pay at $4\frac{1}{2}$ d., and he had with him a mounted Archer, paid at 6d. a day. He was afterwards raised to the pay of an Esquire at 12d., with a mounted Archer at 6d., and later on received the pay of a Knight at 2s., an Esquire at 12d., and two mounted Archers at 6d.

In the King's retinue there were also several Esquires, each of whom had a mounted Archer. Amongst the former there were the following members of Staffordshire families, viz.:—Hugh de Swynerton, Roger Jolif, John de Draycote, Hugh Harpur, Adam Trumwyne, Leo de Perton, and John Seymour. There were also several "valetti," who had no Archers, but were paid at the same rate as the mounted Archers, viz., at 6d. a day. Amongst these was a John Legge.

The King's Body Guard consisted of 40 mounted Archers, under the command of Walter Whitehorse, with a standard. These are called Archers of the "*Hospitium Regis*."

There was also a body of 100 mounted Archers under the command of Thomas de Stafford, with a standard.

Roger de Hampton commanded another body of 100 mounted Archers of divers counties.

William Ryder commanded 39 mounted Archers from Oxfordshire.

And there were also :—

35 mounted Archers under William Bridport.

110 mounted Archers under James de Eton.

101 mounted Archers under Ralph Baggele.

100 mounted Archers under Thomas Kelby.

100 mounted Archers under John Eland.

100 mounted Archers under John de Kyngeston.

Owyne de Charleton commanded a body of 1,000 Welshmen of the King's retinue. These consisted of 10 Constables, 10 Standards, 10 Cryours, 50 Vintenaries, and 920 Welshmen from North Wales. The Crier or "proclamator" was an important personage before writing had come into vogue, for all orders had to be transmitted by word of mouth.

Finally, the King's Confessor had a suite of 3 mounted Archers.

No English infantry are named on the Roll, as they were not paid by the Keeper of the Wardrobe, but the King's retinue included Walter Vaghan, a master miner, "*magister minutorum*," and 44 miners, and a master carpenter, John de Massingham, who had under his orders 52 carpenters.¹

On his return to England in 1360, Sir Hugh found himself involved in a law-suit with his neighbour, John Swynnerton, of Hilton. It will be remembered that when the King granted to him in 1352 a pension of £40 a year, certain fee farm rents in Staffordshire had been allocated for the payment of it. Amongst these was an annual rent of two marks from the Bailiwick of Teddesley, and it now appeared that this rent was not payable to the Crown, but was a fee paid annually to the Chief Forester of Cannock, who was John de Swynnerton. At the Assizes held at Lichfield in July 1360, John de Swynnerton, of Hulton, sued Hugh de Wrottesleye, Kt., John, son of John de Kenilworth, of Pilatenhale, and William, son of Richard de Engleton, for unjustly disseising him of a rent of 26s. 8d. in Huntingdon and Teddesley. Sir Hugh appeared by attorney and answered as receiver of the rent, and quoted the Letters Patent of 25 Edward III, granting him a pension of £40 a year for his life, to be taken from the fee farm rents of Mere and Clent, Swinford, Kinfare and Tettenhall, and the Forestership of Teddesley, and he stated that the rent now claimed was the fee farm rent of the Forestership of Tyddesley, and he could not answer to the

¹ Wardrobe Accounts, 3rd 11th.

writ without the King "*Rege inconsulto.*" The suit was therefore adjourned to the following Easter term, when a writ was produced from the King, stating that whereas John de Swynnerton, of Hulton, had petitioned Parliament to the effect that having arraigned an Assize of novel disseisin against Hugh de Wroottesley, Kt., and others, respecting a rent of 20s. in Huntyngdon and Teddesleye, of which he and his ancestors had been in peaceful seisin from time out of memory, until dispossessed by the said Hugh, and the said Hugh had alleged that he held the rent by the King's Letters Patent, and the Justices had in consequence refused to proceed with the Assize. The King, wishing to do what was just, commanded the Justices to proceed with the Assize according to law and custom. Dated from Westminster 18 February 35 Edward III.¹

Kings in their official writs always wish to do what was just, but the sequel often tells a different tale. At the same Assizes Sir Hugh produced another writ of the King addressed to the Justices at Lichfield, which stated that whereas he had granted by his Letters Patent to his beloved and faithful Hugh de Wroottesle, for his life, amongst other sums, two marks to be received yearly from the Bailiwick of the Haye of Teddesle, and it had been shewn to the King, on the part of the said Hugh, that John de Swynnerton, of Hulton, had alleged that he was seised of the two marks, and by an Assize arraigned against the said Hugh, it was proposed both to disinherit the King and his heirs and the said Hugh, to the contempt of the King, and to the great damage of the said Hugh, the King commanded them that, if they should find the two marks were the same as those named in the Letters Patent, they were to desist from the Assize; dated from Westminster 27 March 35 Edward III: and the writs having been read, the Justices found that the two marks in dispute were the same as those named in the Letters Patent, and the suit was dismissed.² Whilst this suit was pending, Sir Hugh had issued two writs in Baneio against John de Swynnerton. By the first of these he attempted to recover a sum of £22, which he alleged to be unjustly withheld by John, and by the second he sued him in a plea that he should render an account of money which John had received as his Bailiff and receiver. It would appear by these suits that John de Swynnerton had received the fee farm rent of two marks up to the return of Sir Hugh from France in the autumn of 1360. The causes were adjourned

¹ Stafford Assize Roll, 35 Edward III, m. 25 dorso. The petition of John de Swynnerton to Parliament is extant. He evidently considered he had no chance of obtaining justice from the ordinary courts of law.

² Ibidem.

to Hillary term 35 Edward III. No further notice of them occurs on the Rolls, and they were either compromised or brought to an end by the second Great Pestilence which broke out in the summer of 1361.¹

In 1360 a Statute had been passed regulating the office of Justice of the Peace. The first Justices of co. Stafford appointed under this Statute were:—

Ralph, Earl of Stafford,	Sir Hugh de Wrottesley,
Sir William de Sharesulle	Sir John de Brumpton,
(the Chief Justice of the	John, Lord Ferrers of Chart-
Bench),	ley,
Sir Richard de Stafford,	Sir Nicholas de Beek,
Sir Roger Hillary (one of the	Sir John de Pertou, and
Justices of the Common	Sir Robert de Sharesulle. ²
Pleas),	

In 1361 Sir Hugh was present at the Chapter of the Order of the Garter, held on St. George's Day, 35 Edward III (23 April 1361), on which occasion material for robes was issued to him and eighteen other Knights. As this is the first occasion on which any of the Knights are named on the Records, it may be as well to give their names in full. The entry on the Wardrobe Accounts is as follows:—

Domino Principe[1], Comitibus Ulton[2], Richemund[3], Sarum[4], Dominis Edmundo de Langele[5], Ricardo la Vache, Hugoni de Wrottesle, Reginaldo de Cobham, Bartholomeo Burghersh, Domino de Mohun, Waltero Mauny, Nigello Loryng, Waltero Pavely, Willelmo filio Waryn et Milone de Stapelton, cuilibet eorum v ulnas panni nigri coloris longi et unam furraturam de cc ventibus miniveri puri, Comitibus Stafford, Warwick, et Suffolk, et Thome Ughtred militibus de Garterio, cuilibet eorum, vi ulnas panni nigri coloris longi et unam furraturam de cc ventibus miniveri puri ad robas sibi pro festo Sancti Georgii faciendas, et caputias dictarum robarum liniandas, viz., cuilibet eorum iij partes unius ulne panni scarletti. Per literas de privato sigillo 12 March, anno xxxv.³

Amongst the same accounts for this year there is a charge for making 230 garters and 1,308 badges (*jirnaculorum*) for

¹ De Banco, Mich. 34 Edward III, m. 100. The Court did not sit at Trinity term, 35 Edward III, owing to the Pestilence, which was then raging.

² Rot. Pat., 35 Edward III, m. 31, dorso.

³ Wardrobe Accounts, 81², No. 1 is the Prince of Wales; No. 2 is Lionel, Earl of Ulster, the King's son; No. 3 is John of Gaunt, then Earl of Richmond; No. 4 is the Earl of Salisbury; No. 5 is Edmund, the King's son, afterwards Earl of Cambridge, at this time he was only twenty years of age. Beltz has misread the date of this Chapter, and fixes it at 1360, when the King was abroad. It will be observed that even at this early period the Knights were nearly all either Princes of the Blood, Earls or Barons.

the robes of the Knights of the Garter, viz. of gold and silk, and for two hoods, newly lined, delivered to the King in his chamber, to give away at his will.¹

The Knights therefore wore on this occasion black robes, with hoods lined with scarlet silk, and the robes powdered with garters and badges. The curious part of the proceeding is the selection of four of the Knights to receive six yards of long cloth for their robes, in place of five. These must have been men of exceptional height of stature. The Wardrobe Accounts shew that the robes given by the King to the Knights of the Garter differed in colour on each occasion. The mantles appear always to have been blue, and these were probably retained at Windsor.

The Pipe Roll of the year 1363 presents us with another instance of the liberality of the King in favour of Sir Hugh. In 1360 the Treasurer of the Household had advanced to Sir Hugh a sum of £13 6s. 8d. for wages for himself and his retinue on the occasion of the expedition to France of that year. Sir Hugh had afterwards been paid full wages for this service, as well as an extra sum or reward by the Treasurer of the Household, and was consequently bound to refund this sum to the Treasury. The debt had been transferred to the Sheriff's accounts, and is entered on the Pipe Rolls of 34—36 Edward III, under the heading of *Prestita*.² In 1361 Sir Hugh paid back half the amount, viz. ten marks, but he had paid no further instalment of the debt for the next two years. At length an entry on the Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 37 Edward III states that the King of his special grace had remitted to Sir Hugh de Wrottesley the residue, viz. ten marks owing to him for the above imprest.³ This was the fourth occasion on which the King had remitted to him sums of money owing to the Exchequer.

¹ There is an earlier writ on the Pell Records summoning all the Knights of the Garter to Windsor in 1353, but it contains no names. The Record is as follows, under date of 16 Nov. 27 Edward III:—"To divers messengers sent to various parts of England with writs under the seal of St. George directed to all Knights of the Order of St. George to come to Windsor, £1 - 6 - 8." This summons must have been for the King's Christmas festivities.

² A *prestitum* is a sum advanced by the Treasury for the public service, to be subsequently accounted for. The term is still in use in the public service. When the writer was in charge of a division of the Ordnance Survey, he made what were called "imprests" on the Treasury for the pay of his men.

³ Staffordshire Pipe Rolls, 34 to 37 Edward III. The entry on the latter Roll is as follows:—*Hugo de Wrottesle miles reddit compotum de x marcis per vicecomitem sicut supra continetur, viz. de remensione de xij li et viij d. de prestito in denariis per ipsum receptis in Garderoba Regis super vadiis suis guerre et hominum suorum in partibus Francie unde nondum computantur sicut continetur in Rotulo precedenti et in Rotulo xxxv et in Rotulo xxxvi In thesauro nihil, et in perdonatione eidem Hugoni de gratia Regis speciali x marcas, per breve Regis de privato sigillo, videlicet in memorandis de anno xxxviii termino Michaelis. Et quietus est.*

At Michaelmas term of this year, viz. 1363, Sir Hugh was suing in Banco, Adam Thomkynes, of Oldesfallyng, William de Tyford and John, his son, William le Muleward, of Perton Mill, Simon le Frere, and Ada, his wife, and four others named, for breaking *vi et armis* into his mill at Wyghtwik, taking his timber from it, and other goods and chattels belonging to him at Wrottesley, to the value of £12. None of the defendants appeared in Court, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain Adam, who had found bail, and to arrest the others and produce them on the following Octaves of St. Martin.¹

It will be remembered that this is the same mill which was the original cause of the feud between Sir Hugh and the Perton family in 1333. On the Octaves of St. Martin the Sheriff returned that Adam Thomkyns and William de Tyford, and John, his son, were dead, and as the attorney of Sir Hugh did not deny this, the case was dismissed as against them, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest the other defendants and produce them on the Octaves of St. Hillary.²

No further proceedings appear on the Roll of Hillary term, and the suit was without doubt dropt on the death of the three principal defendants. From what we know, however, of the temper and methods of Sir Hugh, he would probably have met an attack of this kind with the same weapons, and the sudden death of the chief actors in the raid is somewhat disquieting when taken in connection with the previous history of this mill. A knight of established reputation, who was high in the favour of the King and a member of his household, had little to fear from an indictment in a local court at this period, but early in the following year, when the Chief Justice was sent into Staffordshire under a special Commission, owing to the disturbed state of the country, Sir Hugh transferred all his goods and chattels, moveable and immoveable into the hands of two trustees, and this was the usual plan adopted by men of property if they expected writs of attachment to be issued against them.³

Sir Hugh was present at the Chapter of the Garter held on St. George's Day of 1364, on which occasion robes were issued to the King's three sons, the Dukes of Lancaster and Clarence, and the Earl of Cambridge, to the Earls of Stafford, Salisbury, and Suffolk, to the Lords Despencer, Burghersh, de Mohun, and to Sir Walter Mauny, Sir Walter Pavely, Sir Hugh Wrottesle, Sir Thomas Ughtred, Sir Francon van Hale, the Captal de Besche (*sic*), and Sir Nigel Loryng, Knights

¹ De Banco, Mich. 37 Edward III, m. 202.

² *Ibid.*, m. 353.

³ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

of the Society of the Garter, for robes for the Feast of St. George, with furs and hoods, viz. to each of them five yards of cloth sanguine in grain, and one yard of black cloth in grain, and a fur of 200 bellies of pure miniver.¹

At the date of the outlawry of Sir Hugh, in May 1354, the custody of the manors of Wrottesley and Butterton had been granted by the King to the Earl of Stafford and to his brother, Sir Richard de Stafford. All Sir Hugh's lands had been restored to him by Letters Patent of 24 Nov. 1355, but at the period now in question it appears to have been thought advisable to obtain a formal release of these manors from the Earl and his brother. Accordingly on the 28 Dec. 1364 the Earl released his claim unconditionally. Sir Richard was absent from England and made no release till the 13 October 1376, when a clause was inserted in the deed, reserving to him and to his heirs a remainder in the manors, in the event of Sir Hugh leaving no heirs of his body.²

The release by the Earl was probably made on the eve of Sir Hugh's second marriage, for about this period the latter took for a second wife Mabel, the daughter and coheir of Sir Philip ap Rees of Talgarth, co. Hereford, and of Ideshale or Allbrighton, co. Salop. Sir Philip was son of Res ap Howel, one of the descendants of the former Welsh Princes and a man of very extensive possessions in Wales and Monmouthshire.³

During the years 1364 and 1365 Sir Hugh had four law suits on hand in the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, but they contain few features of interest. In the first of them he was suing John, son of Simon de Herouville of Wednesbury, for abducting from Wrottesley one of his female villein tenants, Alice Hichecokes. John did not appear to his summons, and the Sheriff returned he could not be found and held no property within his Bailiwick by which he could be attached. He was, therefore, ordered to arrest and produce him at the next sittings of the Court.⁴ Sir Hugh's female villeins appear to have been unusually prepossessing, for he lost no less than three of them by elopements of this kind.

In 1366 the Black Prince espoused the cause of Don Pedro, who had been driven from the throne of Castile by his illegitimate brother, Henry of Transtamare. This step was taken with the approval of the King, who gave permission to the

¹ Wardrobe Accounts, 394. The writ is dated 1 March 38 Edward III.

² Originalia Roll of 43 Edward III, and original deeds at Wrottesley, 1860.

³ Inquisitions p.m., No. 4, 43 Edward III, Sir Philip ap Rees. For an account of the family of ap Rees see the History of Weston-under-Lizard, p. 80, vol. ii, New Series of Staffordshire Collections.

⁴ Staffordshire Collections, vol. xiii, pp. 48, 54 and 56.

Knights of his Household to join in the enterprize, and nearly all the former companions in arms of the Prince ranged themselves under his standard. At Easter in this year Sir Hugh made a new settlement of his property, and the unusual precautions taken for its ratification seem to denote that he was engaged on a distant expedition. On the Monday after the close of Easter 40 Edward III (1366) by an indented deed made between him and John de Tittley, chaplain, all the lands, tenements, rents, etc., which he held in Boturdon, Waterfall, and Grendon were settled on Sir Hugh for his life with remainder to John, son of Cecilia de Pynnington, for his life, with remainder to the heirs male of the body of Sir Hugh, and failing such, to the heirs male of the body of John, son of Cecilia, and other remainders over. This deed for additional security was enrolled in Banco at Easter term of this year.¹

At the same sittings of the Court Sir Hugh levied a fine respecting the manor of Wrottesley and the Patshull Mill, by which they were settled on him and his wife Mabel, and their male issue, and failing such, on John, son of Cecily de Pynnington, and his male issue, and with remainders over as in the last deed.² I have no clue to the identity of John, son of Cecily de Pynnington, but suspect he was an illegitimate son of Sir Hugh. It will be noted that the mills of Wightwyk and the Wergs are not mentioned in these deeds, and must have been the subject of other settlements which have not been preserved.

The English levies joined the Prince in Aquitaine during the autumn of 1366. The army crossed the Pyrenees in the middle of the winter, and on the 3 April 1367 was fought the battle of Najara, which re-established Don Pedro on the throne.

The English troops were detained in Spain for many months after this date, owing to the inability of Don Pedro to find the requisite money for their pay and dismissal, and there is no sign of the presence of Sir Hugh in England before the Friday in Easter week 1368, when he granted a lease of the Wightwick mill to John le Fleming, one of the principal tenants of the King's manor of Tettenhall.³

Sir Philip ap Rees, the father-in-law of Sir Hugh, died in the following year (1369), and this event must have made a considerable addition to Sir Hugh's resources, for he obtained by it a third part of the valuable manor of Talgarth in Wales, and of any other possessions of Sir Philip which had not been settled on the wife of the latter for her life.

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, 1860, and De Banco Roll, Easter 40 Edward III, m. 1 of Protections and Charters.

² Pedes Finium Staffordshire, 40 Edward III.

³ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

The Inquisition on the death of Philip, which was taken at Hereford on the 9 Sept. 43 Edward III (1369), states that he held at the date of his death the manor of Talgarth Engleys, of the King in capite, that he had died on the previous 4 August, and that his heirs were his daughters, Elizabeth, wife of Sir Henry de Mortimer, and Mabel, wife of Sir Hugh de Wrottesleye, and that Hugh and Mabel had a son thirteen weeks old.

Another Inquisition taken at Shifnal, co. Salop, stated he held the manor at Ideshale jointly with Joan his wife, who survived him, and makes the same statement respecting his heirs, with the addition that Elizabeth was thirty years of age and Mabel twenty-four.¹

Within ten months of this date both Mabel and her child were dead, for on the 9 November the King issued the following writ to the Escheator, co. Hereford, "Whereas Philip ap Rees deceased held the vill of Talgarth in capite by Knights service, and Elizabeth, wife of Adam Peshale, one of the daughters of Philip, is his sole heir, and is of full age, and Hugh de Wrottesleye, Knight, had married Mabel the other daughter of Philip, and Mabel was now deceased, but had survived her father and Hugh had had a child by Mabel who was now dead: We have accepted the homage and fealty of the said Hugh for his purparty of the vill and demesne, by reason of the offspring '*prolis*' procreated between him and the said Mabel, to be held by him according to the law of England, and also the fealty of the said Adam for the purparty of Elizabeth, his wife. The Escheator was therefore to make a partition of the vill and demesne of Talgarth Engleys between the said Hugh de Wrottesleye, Kt., and the said Adam Peshale."²

Joan, the widow of Sir Philip ap Rees, died on the following 22 August 1370, and thus of the seven persons named in the above writs and Inquisitions, five had died between August 1369 and August 1370.³ The third great pestilence of this era broke out in July 1369, and lasted for several months.

Sir Hugh was present at the Feast of St. George held at Windsor in 1371, on which occasion robes were issued from the King's wardrobe to the Prince of Wales, the Earls of Hereford, Salisbury, Pembroke and Stafford, and to the Lords de Percy, Latymer, Neville, Basset and Mohun, Sir Walter de Mauny, Sir Richard Penbrugge, Sir Guy de Brian, Sir Niel Loryng, Sir Walter Pavele, Sir John Sully, and to Sir Hugh Wrottesle, Knights of the Garter (*militibus de Garterio*). Each

¹ Inquisitions p.m. 43 Edward III, Nos. 3 and 4.

² Originalia Roll (printed), 43 Edward III, m. 11. As Sir Henry Mortimer was alive at the date of the two Inquisitions previously named, Elizabeth must have married Adam within three months of her first husband's death.

³ Inquisition p.m. 44 Edward III, No. 3.

Knight had five yards of long blue cloth for robes, and one yard of scarlet cloth for hoods, with linings of fur, viz., for each Knight 200 bellies of pure miniver, by writ dated 12 March 44 Edward III¹ (1370).

War had broken out again between the French and English in the year 1369, and on the 3 June Edward III resumed the title of King of France which he had renounced by the treaty of Bretigni.

In 1370 an English army was sent to France under the command of Sir Robert Knollys, who had distinguished himself in command of one of the Free Companies. This force issued from Calais and plundered or burned every place between that town and Paris which was not fortified or ransomed by its inhabitants. Walter Wrottesley, the cousin of Sir Hugh, served in this expedition,² in the retinue of Sir Robert Knollys. A cotemporary French writer describes the latter as "*le vrai demon de la guerre.*"

In 1372 the King determined to take the field in person, but he was now in his sixtieth year, and his good fortune had deserted him. On the 31 August he set sail with a large force for Guienne, but was driven back by a succession of storms and forced to relinquish the enterprise. The troops were never landed, and it is probable that most of the horses were lost, for the King gave large compensations to his barons. The retinue rolls which remain of this expedition are headed, "*Supra mare in presentia domini Regis,*" or "*pur la voiage sur la mere.*" The dates on them vary from the 8 August to the 6 October, when most of the army disembarked at Winchelsea. Sir Hugh, as a Knight of the King's household, must have formed part of this unfortunate expedition, but the Household accounts of it have been lost. In anticipation of it, however, he had executed a deed on the Sunday after the Feast of St. Margaret 46 Edward III (25 July 1372), by which he conveyed all his lands and tenements in Boturdon, Grendon and Waterfall to Richard de Grendon and William de York, Chaplains, and the two feoffees by a subsequent deed, dated on the following 16 August, conveyed the same lands to Sir Hugh and Isabella, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to the right heirs of Sir Hugh.³ This deed contains the first mention of Sir Hugh's third wife.

Shortly after the death of Mabel ap Rees, Sir Hugh had married for a third time. His choice on this occasion was Isabella, the daughter of Sir John Arderne of Aldford, co. Chester. Sir John was lord of Elford in Staffordshire, but

¹ Wardrobe Accounts, 44 and 45 Edward III ³⁹⁶/₂₀.

² French Roll, 44 Edward III. His letters of protection are dated the 26 June.

³ Copies of Butterson deeds at Wrottesley, 1860.

his principal estates lay in Cheshire, where he represented Bigod one of the great Chester feudatories of A.D. 1086, and held his lands by Barony.¹ The father and mother of Isabella had both died in 1349, the year of the Great Pestilence, leaving two sons, Thomas and Walcheline, under age, and three daughters, Matilda, Katherine and Isabella. Sir John also left a son, Peter, by a former wife, but under a special settlement made with the license of the King as Prince of Wales, the whole of the Aldford fee passed to Thomas, the son of his third wife, Ellen de Bulkeley. This Thomas was born during the lifetime of the second wife, and was clearly illegitimate. He first appears on the Cheshire Plea Rolls under the name of Thomas Ellensone, but he subsequently assumed the name of Arderne, and will appear in these pages as Sir Thomas de Arderne at a later date. The daughters of Sir John Arderne were born in wedlock, and the Arderne estates had been settled by a Fine on the two sons in succession and their issue in tail male, and failing such with remainder to the daughters and their issue.² Walcheline, the younger brother of Thomas, died leaving no issue, and the male line of Sir Thomas failed after two generations. The attempts of the descendants of the daughters to make good their claim to the Arderne inheritance under this entail will be described later on.

The Memorials of the Garter, by Beltz, shew that Sir Hugh was present at the Chapter of St. George held in 1372, robes having been issued to him and sixteen others for the festival of that year. In the following year robes were issued to several of the Knights of the Garter for the Feast of St. George, but the name of Sir Hugh does not appear amongst them. It is difficult to account for his absence on this occasion, for on the previous 1 April he was at Wroottesley, and had executed deeds re-settling his estates. It is clear that his presence was not expected, for the writs of privy seal which authorize the issue of the material for the robes are dated some time before the day of the Festival, in order to enable the robes to be made up. The probability is that Sir Hugh was employed on some mission by the King, or had been appointed Captain of one of the numerous garrisons in France.

¹ For an account of the fee of Aldford see Ormerod's "Cheshire" and his "Genealogical Essays." It comprised Aldford, Gawsworth, Lea, Thornton, Mobberley, Norbury, Siddington, Rode now Northwod, Congleton, Sandbach, Sutton, Wimbaldsley, Wever, and a moiety of Nether Alderley and Farndon, for which the lord of Aldford owed the service of seven Knights' fees to the Earl of Chester.

² Cheshire Fines, 20 Edward III and 23 Edward III; and Inquisitions taken on death of Sir John Arderne in 23 Edward III. Peter, the legitimate son of Sir John, inherited Alvanley, which had been settled on Sir John Arderne and his mother.

These were usually commanded by Knights who had grown too old for active service in the field, and Sir Hugh was now close upon sixty years of age. Owing to the war, many other Knights were absent on this occasion, for robes were issued only to fourteen of the Society.

Three deeds were executed on the occasion of the resettlement of Sir Hugh's estates in 1373. By the first of them, which was dated on the Thursday after the Feast of the Annunciation, 47 Edward III (31 March 1373), Walter de Wrottesley, who had been named in the remainder of a previous settlement, released all his claim on the manor of Wrottesley¹; and by an Indenture in French, dated on the following day, Sir Hugh bound himself to enfeoff Henry de Tynmore, the Parson of Elford, and Henry de Oldefallyng, Chaplain, in the manor of Wrottesley, on condition that the said Henry and Henry would enfeoff Sir Hugh and Isabella, his wife, in the same manor, with remainder to the heirs of the body of Sir Hugh, and failing such to Walter de Wrottesley and the heirs male of his body with remainder to John de Pilatenhale, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such to the right heirs of Sir Hugh.²

In pursuance of this Indenture, Sir Hugh on the same date enfeoffed the above named trustees in the manor, but owing probably to the absence of one of the parties the settlement was not completed till the following September, when the same trustees conveyed the manor to Sir Hugh and Isabella and to the heirs of their bodies, with remainders according to the Indenture of 1 April.³

When Sir Hugh had no longer an opportunity for fighting the enemies of his country, he found a new and congenial field for his energies in contests with his neighbours and relations. He had already received pardons under the Great Seal for his complicity in the deaths of four of his neighbours, and at the present date he was engaged in a violent feud with his near neighbour and relative, Adam de Peshall.

Sir Philip ap Rees, the father of Mabel, the second wife of Sir Hugh, had died in August 1369, and when this event occurred, Sir Hugh would be entitled to hold a third of Talgarth by the courtesy of England, Mabel having had issue by him.

On the death of Joan, the widow of Sir Philip, which took place on the 22 August in the following year,⁴ Sir Hugh appears to have claimed one half of the land she had held in

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² Ibidem.

³ Ibidem.

⁴ See ante p. 141.

dower, and this claim was resisted by Adam de Peshall. At length, on the 18 October 1370, by the interposition of friends of both parties, an accord was made by which Sir Hugh was to permit Adam de Peshall and Elizabeth, his wife, to have livery from the King's hands of the third part of the demesne and manor of Talgarth Engleys which Joan, late wife of Sir Philip ap Rees, had held in dower, and which was of the inheritance of the said Elizabeth, together with some other lands and tenements specified, and when this had been effected, Adam and Elizabeth were to levy a Fine by which Sir Hugh should acquire, by license of the King, the said third part for his life, together with the other third part which Adam and Elizabeth had held during the lifetime of Joan, to be held also for his life, and for which he was to pay to Adam and Elizabeth £40 annually. As Sir Hugh already held one third of the manor, the effect of this agreement would be to hand over to him the whole of Talgarth Engleys, subject to an annual payment to Adam and Elizabeth of £40. Both parties took a solemn oath before witnesses that they would faithfully carry out their pledges, but it is a noteworthy fact, when taken in connection with the subsequent history of these transactions, that the half of the Indenture formerly at Wrottesley, in place of bearing the seal of Adam de Peshall according to the purport of the last clause of the deed, has the seal of Thomas Gech, the brother-in-law of Adam, attached to it.¹ It would not, therefore, in the absence of witnesses, have bound Adam at all, for the latter could have pleaded in a court of law that it was not his act and deed, and it is abundantly clear from subsequent proceedings that Adam never had any intention of carrying out the agreement.

Sir Hugh, however, on the completion of this covenant, seems to have taken possession of the whole manor, for in a deed formerly at Wrottesley he styles himself "*dominus de Talgarth*," and granted a lease of the manorial mill. The Welsh portion of Talgarth, including the towns of Langorse and Bronlys, formed a separate manor, which was held under the De Bohuns, Earls of Hereford. This had been settled on Philip ap Rees and Joan, his wife, and their issue, and having passed into the hands of Adam and Elizabeth, formed a convenient base of operations for inroads upon the possessions of Sir Hugh at Talgarth Engleys.

Accordingly at Easter term, 48 Edward III (1374), we find the latter suing in Banco, Adam de Peshall and six others,

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. For an account of this transaction, see also Bridgeman's History of Weston under Lizard, pp. 83-89, Vol. ii, New Series of Staffordshire Collections. No witnesses are named in the deed.

mostly Welshmen, for breaking *vi et armis* into his close at Talgarth Engleys, and taking his goods and chattels to the value of £10. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest and produce them at the following Trinity term.¹ Sir Hugh must likewise have laid an information against the Peshalls in the Court of King's Bench, for an entry on the Coram Rege Roll of the same date, viz., Easter, 48 Edward III, states that the Sheriff had been ordered to summon for that date Adam de Peshale, John le Parker of Talgarth, Richard de Peshale, Kt., Richard Mutton, John Qualmpolle, and fourteen others named, for divers trespasses, extorsions and oppressions for which they had been indicted. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff had made no return to the writ. He was therefore ordered to distrain and produce them on the following term. The process was continued up to Hillary term, 49 Edward III, when Adam was fined ten marks, Richard de Peshall 40s., and the others smaller sums.² John Qualmpolle, here named, had been formerly Sir Hugh's bailiff at Wrottesley, and having been sued by the latter for an account of his stewardship had absconded.³

Apparently after this inroad upon him Sir Hugh considered it advisable to call upon Adam de Peshall to carry out the agreement of 1370, for at the Easter Sittings of the Court of Common Pleas, 48 Edward III. (1374), he sued Adam de Peshall and Elizabeth, his wife, to carry out a covenant made between them and himself respecting land in Talgarth Engleys, and two parts of the same manor, according to the form of certain Indentures made between them. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to summon them for the following term. The process was continued till Easter term, 49 Edward III, when the Sheriff returned that the defendants had been distrained up to 40d. He was therefore ordered to distrain again and produce them at the following term. The process went on in this way, adjourned from term to term,⁴ till Easter, 51 Edward III, when the Sheriff returned that he had distrained them again up to 40d. The defendants, however, made no appearance in Court, and he was ordered to distrain again and produce them at the following Michaelmas term.⁵ Before the last date the King had died, and as

¹ De Banco, Easter, 48 Edward III. m. 351, dorso.

² Coram Rege, Easter, 48 Edward III, m. 12, Rex.

³ De Banco, Mich., 42 Edward III, m. 340, dorso.

⁴ During a part of this time Sir Richard de Peshall, the brother of Adam, was Sheriff of Staffordshire.

⁵ De Banco, Trinity, 48 Edward III, m. 482, dorso. Ditto, Easter, 49 Edward III, m. 448. Ditto, Hillary, 50 Edward III, m. 164. Ditto, Trinity, 50 Edward III, m. 276, dorso. Ditto, Easter, 51 Edward III, m. 212.

this event annulled all the writs, Sir Hugh was forced to begin his suit *de novo*.

It will be seen from the above narrative that seven years had elapsed since the agreement had been made, and it was not until four years had passed that Sir Hugh had commenced an action in Banco for specific performance of it. During the last three years Adam had successfully evaded service to the writ, and Sir Hugh after having been put to considerable expense in law costs had now to begin his suit again. It is not surprising therefore to find him taking the law into his own hands. In the first year of Richard II Sir Adam de Peshall petitioned the King and Council, that having been up in London for the Coronation of the King, on repairing home to his own country, Monsieur Hugh de Wrottesley, designing his death, had made various ambushes of men armed and harnessed on the high roads between London and the country, and he had himself laid in wait with many armed men at a place called Foxhunte Ledegate, in the county of Worcester, with a view of killing and murdering the said Adam and his people, as was well known throughout all the country, and he had afterwards so threatened him and his servants and tradespeople of the town of Shuffenhale (Shifnal), that his servants and tradespeople did not dare to attend the market or fair for the purpose of their business, and he had taken from one William Barker, one of his tenants, twenty-four oxen on the high road at Wrottesley, and kept them until he had made a fine of 24s. for their release, and the said Sir Hugh had formed a retinue of outlaws and malefactors from the counties of Chester and Lancaster, in consequence of which things the said Adam prayed a remedy for himself and his tenants.

The petition is endorsed "Let a writ be issued under the Great Seal commanding Monsieur Hugh de Wrottesley to appear before the Council on the morrow of St. Martin next ensuing under a penalty of £300, to answer to this bill." After which follows a copy of the writ to Sir Hugh in Latin, which is dated 30 October, 1 Richard II.¹

The King, although only ten years of age, had been crowned at Westminster on the 16 July, and Parliament met on the following 13 October. All petitions addressed in this way to the King and Council were laid before Parliament, and the above writ of the 30 October is endorsed "*Istud breve retornatum fuit in Parliamentum die Jovis in Crastino Sancti Martini et idem Hugo ibidem compertus eodem die Jovis.*"

¹ Petitions to King and Council, Public Record Office. The petition is in French, and bears no date.

There are two answers of Sir Hugh to the complaint. In the first of them, which is addressed to the King of Castile and Leon, the Duke of Lancaster, and other lords of Parliament, he merely says that "as Adam de Peshale had laid his petition before Parliament, he prayed that the said Adam might sustain his bill, or if he would not do so, that they would give judgement upon it as reason demands." This was evidently no answer to Sir Adam's petition, and the tone of it justifies the suspicion that Sir Hugh trusted to the ascendancy of the old Court party in his favour. If this was the case he must soon have been disabused, for the new Parliament evinced an unaccustomed spirit of independence, impeached the King's late mistress, Alice Perers, and excluded all the King's uncles from the administration. It also presented a petition requesting the King to check the prevailing custom of the Barons, as well as men of inferior rank, of forming illegal confederacies and supporting one another in violations of the law.

Sir Hugh had therefore to frame another answer. His counter petition to the Council, like Sir Adam's, is in French, and is addressed, "A tres sage et noble conseil notre seigneur le Roi." It states that an accord had formerly been made between Adam de Peshale and him respecting the Manor of Talgarth, by which the said Adam and Elizabeth, his wife, ought long ago to have levied a Fine, and this the said Adam had sworn to perform in the presence of Sir Ralph Ferrers, Sir Peter de Caverswalle, Sir Nicholas de Stafford, Sir Thomas de Harcourt, and others, and this oath he had violated, as well as his deed under his seal, and by this violation the said Hugh had been put to great expense and loss, as the manor being held of the King *in capite*, he had been forced to obtain the King's license, for which he had paid a large sum, and since that time, by reason of the enmity between them, the men of the said Adam had beaten his men and tenants at the Fair of Albrighton on the last day of St. Thomas (21 December). Notwithstanding which, they had sent to the said Adam at Ideshale complaining of the men of Sir Hugh, whom they had beaten, in consequence of which Hamenet, the brother of Adam, armed and arrayed as for war, with others of his household and tenants to the number of sixty, arrayed and armed, went to Albrighton and drove the men of Sir Hugh out of the county of Salop as far as Wrottesley, in the county of Stafford, and had beaten, maimed, and ill-treated them so badly that they were in fear of their lives, and they had plundered them, shouting out "Tuez les larons de Wrottesleye," and calling out and praying to God that the said Hugh had been with them, so that they might have killed him, to the dread of the whole county, and

against the King's peace. And besides this, the said Adam, Hamenet, and Sir Richard, his brothers, had laid a slanderous complaint against him in the King's Court, and sued out writs to attach his person without any reason, since which time the said Sir Richard, Adam, and Hamenet, and others of his affinity, had assembled together 300 men arrayed in manner of war, so that he neither dared to remain at home or go out of his house without a great company by reason of their malice; and Thomas Gech, the brother-in-law of Adam, had sent word to one William de Godyngton to go with him against the said Hugh, and because he had refused to do so, the sons of Sir Richard had gone to the house of William for the purpose of killing him, and out of spite had taken his daughter and "*la raviserent felenousement*," against the King's peace and dignity, and in order to spite the said Hugh as before stated.¹

The ultimate result of these proceedings is not shewn, but without doubt both parties were bound over under heavy penalties to keep the peace according to the provisions of the Act of Edward III.

In order to give a continuous narrative of this dispute, it has been necessary to outstrip some of the events of Sir Hugh's life. The Wardrobe Accounts shew that he was present at the Chapters of the Garter held on St. George's Day (21 April), in each of the years 1374, 1375, 1376, and 1377.

On the first of these Festivals, owing probably to the war in France, twelve only of the Knights were present, in addition to the King and the Prince of Wales. These were the Earls of Cambridge and Salisbury, the Lords Latymer, Neville and Basset, Sir Alan Buxhulle, Sir Guy de Brian, Sir Richard Pembrugge, Sir Walter Pavely, Sir Niel Loryng, Sir John Sully, and Sir Hugh Wrottesle.²

The Festival of the year 1376, was the last attended by the Black Prince, for he died on the following 8 June. A truce had been made with France, and every Knight was present except the Captal de Buch. Robes were issued to:—

The Prince of Wales,	The Duke of Lancaster,
The Duke of Brittany,	The Earl of Salisbury,
The Earl of Cambridge,	The Earl of Bedford,
The Earl of Warwick,	The Earl of Stafford,
The Earl of Suffolk,	Lord Latymer,
Lord Neville,	Lord Percy,

¹ Petitions to King and Council. Public Record Office.

² Enrolled Wardrobe Accounts, No. 4. The colors of the Robes are not given in these Accounts. The *enrolled* Wardrobe Accounts, as distinguished from the ordinary Wardrobe Accounts, appear to have been overlooked both by Anstis and Beltz.

Lord Basset of Drayton,
 Sir Alan de Buxhull,
 Sir Nigel Loryng,
 Sir Hugh de Wrottesle,
 Sir Thomas Percy,
 Sir Guychard d'Angle,

Sir Thomas de Holland,
 Sir Guy de Brian,
 Sir John Sully,
 Sir William de Beauchamp,
 Sir Thomas Banastre, and
 Sir Robert de Namur.

The Robes at this Festival were sanguine in grain,¹ and the hoods lined with blue; the fur supplied was white miniver for the lords and grey for the knights.

The Festival of the following year was the last attended by the King, who died in June 1377. On this occasion Richard, the young Prince of Wales, was introduced into the Chapter, although only eleven years of age, and out of compliment to his youth the Knights were attired in robes of white cloth and hoods lined with blue.² To quote the late Poet Laureate, they were "white robed in honor of the stainless child."

An Inquisition of this year (1377), taken on the death of Thomas de Venables of Alvandelegh, gives some information respecting the parentage of Isabella, the wife of Sir Hugh. It states that Thomas had died seised of certain lands and tenements in Budworth, co. Chester, in right of his wife Aline, the daughter and heir of Robert Daa, which were held of the King *in capite* as Earl of Chester, by military service, and that the heirs of Aline were Robert, son of Robert de Legh, the son of Matilda, daughter of John de Arderne, Kt. Katherine, the wife of John Boidele, Kt., daughter of John de Arderne, and Isabella, the wife of Hugh de Wrottesleye, Kt., the other daughter of John de Arderne, and that Katherine and Isabella were twenty-four years of age and upwards.

¹ *i.e.*, Sanguine in grain is crimson. Spanish grana—whence the word pomegranate.

² Wardrobe Accounts, 49-51 Edward III, $\frac{30}{20}$. There is a cotemporary drawing of Sir Neel Loryng, in these robes, in Cottonian MS., Nero. D. vii, where he is depicted in white robes powdered with garters.

The Black Prince died on the 8 June 1376. The enrolled Accounts of John de Sleaford, the Keeper of the Wardrobe, between the 24 November, 48 Edward III, and 21 June, 51 Edward III, when the King died, have the following entry:—

"Et Edwardo Principi Wallie ac Ricardo filio suo Principi Wallie post mortem dicti patris sui, Duci Lancastrie, Comitibus Pembroke, Warwick et Sarum, Dominis de Percy, Latymer, Neville, Mohun et Basset, Alano de Buxhulle, Ricardo de Penbrugge, Guidone Brian, Thome Graunson, Guychard de Angle, Nigello Loryng, Johanni Sully, Hugoni de Wrotteslee et Waltero Pavele, militibus de Garterio, et Episcopo Wyntonensi pro robiis suis contra festum Sancti Georgii faciendis, necnon prefato Ricardo Principi Wallie, Thome de Wodestoke, Henrico filio Regis Castell, Comiti Oxon: dominis de Bellomonte, et Moubray, duobis filiis Comitum Stafford et Sarum, tribus filiis domini de Percy, et Johanni de Sotheray pro apparatibus suis ad ordinem militarem de dicto avo suscipiendum," etc.

This is probably the first occasion on which Knights were made of such tender age. Richard, the Prince of Wales, and his cousin Henry, the son of John of Gaunt, were born in the same year, *viz.*, in 1366.

The relationship of the sisters to Aline is not specified, but judging from chronology, and facts gleaned from the Chester Plea Rolls, they were, without doubt, her grandchildren.¹

Edward III died on the 21 June 1377, and his grandson, Richard, was crowned in the following month. On the formation of the young King's household, Sir Hugh was placed in his former position as a "*miles Regis*,"² and his fee of £40 a year was confirmed to him by Letters Patent dated 27 January 1378.

At the first festival of St. George of the new reign all the Knights of the Garter were present. The young King at this date was only eleven years of age, and he was accompanied by his mother, Joan, the Princess of Wales, and several other ladies, who were all attired in the same dress as the Knights. Alan de Stokes, the Keeper of the Wardrobe, charges his accounts this year with a robe of scarlet cloth for the King's mother, of the uniform of the Society of the Garter "*de secta militum de Societate Garterii, de dono domini Regis contra Festum Sancti Georgii*," and the same for the Queen of Spain (the Duchess of Lancaster), the Duchess of Brittany, and the Lady Courtenay, sister of the King,³ and for two daughters of the Duke of Lancaster, and for the Countess of Oxford.

¹ Robert Daa was a son (probably illegitimate) of Warine le Grosvenor of Budworth, the chief Forester of Delamere, temp. Edward I. The name is apparently Welsh, for a Jevan ap Daa was Collector of the Subsidy in co. Chester in 1434, and Res Wynne ap Daa held the same office in 1454. A suit on the Chester Plea Rolls shews that Warine le Grosvenor, temp. Edward I, had made grants of land in Budworth to his son Robert Daa, and this Robert was also executor of his will.

Thomas de Venables was not the father of Ellen, the mother of the three coheiresses of Aline, for in 42 Edward III they were suing him for waste and destruction in lands of their inheritance at Teverton, near Tarporley. He must, therefore, have held their inheritance by courtesy only. The father of Ellen may have been a Bulkeley, as she is called Ellena de Bulkeley on the Chester Plea Rolls; but I suspect she was a widow, and had been born a Radcliffe. The Radcliffes of Ordsall, co. Lancaster, held Moberley and Sandbach, under the Ardernes of Aldford, and Sir Hugh Wrotesley, after his marriage with Isabella, appears to have assumed the Arms of Radcliffe with a change of tincture, for these Arms, viz., "Or, a bend engrailed Gules," have been ascribed to him by Ashmole, in his "History of the Garter," on the authority of an Armorial in the College of Arms. Ormerod, in his "History of Cheshire," describes Ellen as a Wasteneys, but I have never been able to discover any authority for this statement.

² A writ on the Patent Roll of 1 Richard II (printed), dated 25 November 1377, contains a pardon for John Trubbeschawe for killing Stephen de Bruggewode, granted on the supplication of Hugh de Wrotesley "*Regis militis*." John was one of the outlaws of co. Chester, whom Sir Hugh had taken into his service.

³ This was Matilda, widow of Sir Hugh Courtenay, and half-sister to the King. The Duchess of Brittany was Mary, a daughter of Edward III, and the Countess of Oxford was Philippa, granddaughter of Edward III, and a daughter of Isabella, the Countess of Bedford.

Also for robes of scarlet cloth embroidered with Garters of blue taffata, with the motto "hony soit qi mal y pense," each robe of two trimmings, "*de duabus garniamentis*," and for hoods of the same, lined with white cloth, made long and furred, for twenty-four Knights of the Society of the Garter, for the Festival of St. George, viz., for the Duke of Lancaster, five yards of scarlet cloth and one yard of white cloth, and a fur lining, "*furratura*" of 200 bellies of pure miniver; for the Earl of Derby,¹ three yards of scarlet cloth and half a yard of white cloth, and a fur of 200 bellies of pure miniver; and for the Duke of Brittany, the Earls of Cambridge, Warwick, Salisbury, Stafford, Suffolk, Northumberland, and Huntingdon, and the Lords Latimer, Nevill, Basset, and Sir Thomas Holand, to each, five yards of scarlet cloth and half a yard of white cloth, and a fur of 200 bellies of pure miniver; and to Sir William de Beauchamp, Sir Guy de Brian, Sir Alan de Buxhull, Sir Thomas Percy, Sir Thomas Banastre, Sir Nigel Loryng, Sir John Sully, Sir Hugh de Wrottesle, Sir Louis de Clifford, and Sir John de Burle, to each for robes, five yards of scarlet cloth, half a yard of white cloth, and a fur lining of 120 bellies of miniver "*grossi*";² and to Isabella, Countess of Bedford,³ for a robe of the uniform of the said Knights, "*de secta dictorum militum*," for the same Festival, five yards of scarlet cloth, half a yard of white cloth, and a fur of 200 bellies of pure miniver."

Sir Hugh was present again at the Festival of the Order in 1379, but apparently the presence of the King's mother and the other ladies in 1378 had not been a success, for the household accounts of 1379 state that 2,030 Garters⁴ were made of blue taffata, embroidered in gold, with the motto of the Order, for twenty-six trimmings, "*garniamentis*," for the King and other Knights of the Society of the Garters, (*sic*) "*de Societate Garteriorum*," and likewise for the King's mother and for two others, which were not received, "*et aliis duabus de non receptis*." From another part of the same document we find that the two ladies who had not accepted their robes were the Countess of Bedford and her daughter, the Countess of Oxford, and as no other ladies received robes, the King's mother must have been the only lady present upon this occasion. It is a trifling circumstance

¹ Henry, Earl of Derby, was the eldest son of the Duke of Lancaster, and was afterwards Henry IV. At this date he was only eleven years of age.

² Miniver grossus would be probably the back or coarser fur of the animal, grey in colour.

³ The Countess of Bedford was Isabella, daughter of Edward III, and the widow of Ingelram de Coucy.

⁴ The robes were powdered with Garters, as shewn on a contemporary drawing of Sir Niel Loryng.

in itself, but the refusal of the two Countesses to accept robes of the King's gift is a forecast of the rivalry and jealousies which distracted the Court of Richard II, and ultimately produced the deposition and death of that unfortunate King.

The robes on this occasion were of tawny cloth, embroidered with Garters of blue taffata, with the motto of the Order, with hoods of blue cloth, and lined with miniver as on former occasions. Twenty-two robes were issued from the wardrobe, and all the Knights were present except Lord Neville and Sir John Burley. Of the original Knights of the Garter four only survived at this period, viz., the Earl of Salisbury, Sir Guy de Brian, Sir Nigel Loryng, and Sir Hugh Wrottesley.

On the 6 December 1380, license was granted to John Burdele (Boydell), Kt., and to Katherine, his wife, to alienate to Hugh de Wrottesleye, Kt., and to Isabella, his wife, and to their issue, a messuage and thirty acres of land in Budworth, in Le Frith, and on the following 14 December a writ to the Eschaetor of co. Chester directs him to deliver to Hugh de Wrottesleye that part of the land of Alina, formerly the wife of Thomas de Alvandeleghe, which belonged to Isabella, wife of the said Hugh, and likewise the other part which belonged to Katherine, wife of John Burdele, Kt., and which had been sold by her and the said John, to Hugh and Isabella, and which lands had fallen to the said Isabella and Katherine, as kinswomen and heirs of the said Alina.¹ This is the latest appearance of Sir Hugh on any public document.

On the following 14 January he was on his death bed and made provision for two sons, apparently illegitimate. By a deed, dated from Wrottesley, on the Monday after the Feast of St. Hillary, 4 Richard II, he granted to his son William, all his lands, tenements, rents, and services in the vills of Tetenhall and Codsall for the term of his life, together with a mill adjoining called Bordensmulne, and by another deed of the same date he granted to his son Richard, for the term of his life, all his lands and tenements in Beckebury and Wybaston.²

He died, according to the Inquisition taken on his death,

¹ Calendar of Welsh and Cheshire Records, printed. (Rolls series). Katherine had been previously married to Thomas de Masey, and seems to have been the eldest sister, for in 1368 Thomas de Masey and Katherine, his wife, Robert de Legh, the younger, and Matilda, his wife, and Isabella, sister of Matilda, sued Thomas de Venables, of Alvandeleghe, for waste in Teverton, near Tarporley, which was of their inheritance.

² Original deeds formerly at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. Wybaston is a township of Bushbury.

on the Monday after the Feast of St. Vincent, 4 Richard II, which would be the 28 January 1381, but to shew the difficulty of obtaining accurate dates at this era, the Court Roll of Wrottesley, held on the following 9 January 1382, states, on the authority of all the tenants at Wrottesley, that he died on the Tuesday before the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, 4 Richard II, which would be the 29 January 1381; whilst the Pipe Roll of the same year fixes the date as the 21 January 1381, from which day his pension of £40 ceased to be payable.

The writ of "*diem clausit extremum*" was issued to the Eschaetor, of co. Hereford, on the 4 February 1381, and the Inquisition took place at Hereford on the 10 February. It states that Hugh de Wrottesley Chivaler held no lands or tenements in fee in co. Hereford, on the day he died; but he held at that date the third part of the manor of Talgarth for the term of his life by the courtesy of England, in right of Mabel, formerly his wife, the reversion of which belonged to Elizabeth, the wife of Adam de Peshale, Chivaler, the sister and heir of Mabel, and which Elizabeth was thirty years of age and upwards, and that the said third part was held of the King *in capite* by the service of one-third of a Knight's fee, and was worth annually £12, and that Hugh de Wrottesley died on the Monday after the Feast of St. Vincent last, and that Hugh, the son of the said Hugh, was his nearest heir by blood, and was ten years of age.

At the date of his death Sir Hugh had just completed his sixty-seventh year.

The following younger members of the family are named in deeds or on the Plea Rolls during the lifetime of Sir Hugh, in addition to those already mentioned in the foregoing account of him.

John de Wrottesley occurs on a Staffordshire Assize Roll of 5 Edward III, and was outlawed in 9 Edward III for a trespass committed with many others against the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield. He is doubtless identical with the John de Wrottesley mentioned in the proceedings of 20 Edward II, against Joan the widow of Sir William de Wrottesley, and was probably uncle to Sir Hugh and son of Sir William, who was living between 1276 and 1313.

A William de Wrottesley occurs as a tenant in Drayton Basset on the Subsidy Roll of 6 Edward III. This is probably William, son of Hugh de Wrottesley, named in the suit against Walter de Perton on the Assize Roll of 12 Edward III, and the *consanguineus* of Sir Hugh named in the deed of 11 Edward III.

A Thomas de Wrotteslegh was one of those appealed in 11 Edward III by Lettice, formerly wife of Henry de Longford, for the death of her husband. He did not appear, and was outlawed.¹ The principal defendant in these proceedings was John de Chetwynde, Knight. Peter, son of Thomas de Wrottesley, is shewn by a deed formerly at Wrottesley to have held land in Chillington in 23 Edward III.

Richard de Wrottesley occurs as a defendant in a suit for trespass in Warwickshire in 11 Edward III,² and is doubtless identical with the Richard named in the proceedings of 20 Edward II, above named, and was uncle to Sir Hugh.

A Hugh de Wrottesley, Bailiff of Sir Henry de Braillesford at Belfcote, was sued by the latter to render an account of his Stewardship in 26 Edward III. Thirteen years afterwards, viz., in 39 Edward III, he was sued by Sir Henry for a trespass committed against him at Belfcote in company with many other tenants, and not appearing to his summons was outlawed.³ This Hugh was probably brother to the William de Wrottesley abovenamed, the *consanguineus* of Sir Hugh, for the father of William was named Hugh. In 12 Edward III (1338) Stephen de Seggesbarwe was suing Hugh de Wrottesleye and Robert de Codeshalle for taking by force, in August 1336, his goods and chattels, viz., hay and corn, worth 100s., from Oxhulle, in Warwickshire, and for beating and wounding his servants. The defendant, however, in this case, may have been Sir Hugh, for the affix of "miles" or "chivaler" is occasionally omitted in the Plea Rolls.⁴

ARMS OF SIR HUGH DE WROTTESELEY.

Wrottesley impaling Arderne of Aldford, co. Chester.

Or, three piles Sable, a quarter Ermine for Wrottesley.

Gules, a chief and three cross crosslets Or, for Arderne. According to Ormerod, the chief was sometimes borne Argent.

The deeds, formerly at Wrottesley, of the epoch of Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, K.G., were very numerous, for in addition to frequent mortgages of his lands in order to raise money, and royal grants made to him, he made a fresh disposition of his property whenever he married a new wife, or was

¹ Coram Rege Roll, Michaelmas, 11 Edward III, m. 16, Rex.

² Coram Rege, Trinity, 11 Edward III.

³ De Banco Rolls, Easter, 26 Edward III, m. 40 dorso, and Coram Rege Roll of Hillary, 39 Edward III.

⁴ Coram Rege Roll, Easter, 12 Edward III, m. 71.

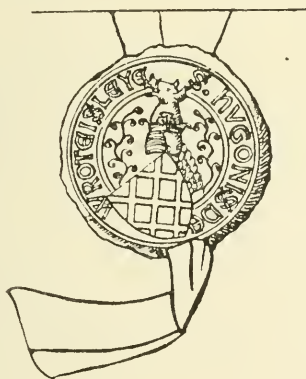
about to set forth on an expedition with the King. The most important of these deeds are given below:—

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes de Fulford dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta confirmavi domino Hugoni de Wrottesleye militi et Elizabeth uxori sue manerium de Wrottesleye cum edificiis, terris, parcis, pasturis, boscis, redditibus, sectis curie, serviciis nativorum et eorum sequelis cum wardis, releviis, eschaetis, maritagiiis, una cum molendino aquatico in feodo de Patleshulle existente quod vocatur Auec Wallemulle que habui ex dono et feoffamento predicti domini Hugonis. Habenda et tenenda omnia supradicta cum suis pertinentiis predictis domino Hugoni et Elizabeth uxori sue et heredibus de corpore ipsius domini Hugonis legitime procreatis, libere, quiete, bene et in pace in perpetuum de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servitia inde debita et consueta. Ita quod si predictus Hugo sine herede de se legitime procreato decedat, tunc post decessum predictorum Hugonis et Elizabeth predictum manerium cum omnibus supradictis cum suis pertinentiis Rogero fratri dicti domini Hugonis et filio Willelmi de Wrottesleye et heredibus masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis integre remanebunt: et si predictus Rogerus sine herede masculo de se legitime procreato decedat, tunc predictum manerium cum omnibus supradictis cum suis pertinentiis Idonie sorori sue et filie Willelmi de Wrottesleye et heredibus masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis remanebunt, et si dicta Idonia sine herede masculo de corpore suo legitime procreato decedat, tunc predictum manerium cum omnibus supradictis cum suis pertinentiis Elienore sorori sue et filie Willelmi de Wrottesleye et heredibus masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis remanebunt, et si dicta Elienora sine herede masculo de corpore suo legitime procreato decedat, tunc dictum manerium cum omnibus supradictis cum suis pertinentiis propinquioribus heredibus dicti domini Hugonis integre remanebunt in perpetuum. Et ego predictus Johannes, etc. (clause of warranty). In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus, Dominis Johanne Giffard, Johanne de Swynfortun, Henrico de Bisshebury militibus, Johanne de Prestwode, Willelmo de Rugge, Ricardo de Ovyotteshay, Ada de Beckebury et aliis. Data apud Wrottesleye, die dominico proximo post festum Sancte Hillarii anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum, septimo. [16 January 1334].¹

Seal, a man's head within a geometrical figure, but much defaced.

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1360. Sir John Giffard, the first witness, was Lord of Chillington, co. Stafford, and was a relic of a former age, for he succeeded his father in 1313. He served as one of the Knights of the Shire in the Parliaments of 15 and 18 Edward II. Sir John de Swynnerton was Lord of Hilton, co. Stafford, and hereditary Chief Forester of Cannock. Sir Henry de Bisshebury was Lord of Bushbury and Upper Penn, co. Stafford. He and Sir John de Swynnerton were Knights for the county in the Parliament of 15 Edward II. The other witnesses were Shropshire Esquires, living at Rudge and Beckbury, in the neighbourhood of Wrottesley; Ovyotteshay is Ivetsey in Altrington.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Hugo de Wrottesleye miles dominus de Wrottesleye dedi, concessi et hac presenti carta confirmavi Willelmo de Wrottesleye consanguineo meo et Wilhelmo de Holbarwe manerium meum de Wrottesleye cum omnibus suis pertinentiis Habendum et tenendum predictum manerium cum omnibus suis pertinentiis predictis Willelmo et Willelmo heredibus et assignatis suis de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servitia inde debita et consueta. Ego vero Hugo et heredes mei predictum manerium cum omnibus suis pertinentiis predictis Willelmo et Willelmo heredibus et assignatis suis contra omnes mortales warantizabimus et defendemus in perpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium huic carte sigillum meum est appensum. Hiis testibus Dominis Henrico de Bysshebury, Johanne Giffard militibus, Ricardo de Hampton, Johanne de Mollesleye, Ricardo de Ovyoteslay, Johanne de Barnehurst et aliis. Datum apud Wrottesleye die Jovi proximo ante festum Sanctii Ambrosii confessoris anno regno regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu undecimo. [3 April 1337].¹



Ceste endenture testmoigne que come Monsz Hugh de Wrottesleye Chivaler a done e graunte a Monsz Johan de Hampton Chivaler e a ses heyres totes les terres et tenementz rentes e services anzi bien de franke tenaunts come de feifts ove toutz les appurtenauntz que il aveyt en Boterdone, Waterfall et Grendon aver e tener a le avaundit Monsz Johan e a ses heyres anzi come en une chartre de fefement al dit Monsz Johan par le dit Monsz Hugh de lui fatte plus pleynement est contenuz, que le dit Monsz Johan graunt pur luy et pur ses heyres que si le dit Monsz Hugh paie al dit Monsz Johan a Elderstoke en Hampteshire a les octaves de Seynt

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860. On the 18 June following, the abovenamed feoffees reconveyed the manor of Wrottesley to Sir Hugh and his wife, Elizabeth, with remainder to his brother Roger, and sisters, Idonia and Elienora, as in the deed of 1334. The seal of William de Wrottesley was much defaced, but the remains of a fret could be clearly distinguished on it. The witnesses to this deed were John de Barnehurst, Richard de Ovyoteslay, John de Hampton, and William le Neweman de Hampton.

Johan le Baptist posthem avener apres la confecture de cestes, vynt livres desterlings, que bien lise al dit Monsz Hugh e a ses heyres en les avaunt ditz terres e tenementz, rentes e services ausci bien frank tenantz come done de feifts (*sic*) ove toutz les appurtenauntz reentrer et retenir a toutz jours e que la chartre de feffement de luy al dit Monsz Johan per le dit Monsz Hugh fatte soyte tenue pur nul, et le dit Monsz Hugh grante pur ly et pur ses heyres que si il ne paie les avant ditz vynt livres al dit Monsz Johan al jour e lieu avant ditz que adonques bien lise al dit Monsz Johan e a ses heyres les avaunt ditz terres e tenementz rentes e services auxi bien de franks tenauntz come de feafts ove toutz les appurtenauntz retenir a toutz jours et que la chartre de feffement de lui al dit Monsz Johan per le dit Monsz falte estoise en sa force. Ceux testimoignes, Sire Richard Hillari, William de Lodelowe, Johan de Prestwode, Johan de Barnehulst, Johan de Mollesleye l'egne, Johan de Mollesleye le juisne, et autres, Escrite a Wadenesfale le Samedy posthem apres la fest de Synt Ambrose le Confesseur lan du reigne Rey Edward tierce apres le conquest unzime. [5 April 1337.]¹

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes de Hampton miles dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi domino Hugoni de Wrottesleye militi, omnes terras et tenementa, redditus et servitia cum suis pertinentiis que habui in Boterdon, Waterfall et Grindon, de dono et feoffamento dicti domini Hugonis. Habenda et tenenda omnia predicta terre et tenementa redditus et servicia cum omnibus suis pertinentiis predicto domino Hugoni heredibus et assignatis suis de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicia inde debita et consueta in perpetuum. In ejus testimonium huic carte mee sigillum meum est appensum. Hiis testibus Ricardo de Hampton, Johanne de Prestewode, Johanne de Barnehurst, Johanne de Mollesleye seniore, Johanne de Mollesleye juniore et aliis. Datum apud Beietatis (*sic*) die dominica proxima post festum Sancti Michalis anno regni regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu undecimo. [5 October 1337.]²

¹ From copies of Butterson Deeds at Wrottesley, transcribed by me 1860. Sir John de Hampton was of Oldstoke, co. Southampton. His surname was derived, I think, from Hampton, in co. Worcester, a manor held under the Abbots of Evesham; but this family also held land in Wolverhampton, for in 8 Edward IV Thomas Hampton, of Oldstoke, co. Southampton, Armiger levied a Fine respecting nine messuages and eighty acres of land and pasture in Wolverhampton. A John de Hampton, who was a Knight, was in the King's retinue at Crecy and Calais, but whether he was identical with Sir John de Hampton, of Oldstoke, I am unable to say.

A Roll of Arms, in Glover's collection, which is headed "Arma nobilium de Comitatu Stafford," contains this coat for Sir John de Hampton:—Argent between three cinquefoils Blue, a chevron Gules—on the chevron, three roundels, Or. These, however, are the arms of the Hamptons, of Stourton, and are borne also by the Lanes, formerly of Hampton, and now of Kings Bromley.

² From copies of Butterson deeds at Wrottesley, the name of the place from which the deed is dated has been apparently mis-copied.

Pateat universis per presentes me Leonem de Perton remississe, relaxasse, et omnino pro me et heredibus meis in perpetuum quietum clamasse Hugoni de Wrottesleye Chyvaler, totum jus meum et clameum quod habeo, habui, seu aliquo modo de cetero habere potero, in toto molendino de Wythwyk, et in cursu aque eidem molendino adjacente, et in omnibus terris et tenementis quas et que idem Hugo habet et tenet in Tetenhale et in Wythwyk, ita vero quod nec ego predictus Leo nec heredes mei nec aliquis alius pro nobis seu nomine nostro aliquod jus vel clameum in predicto molendino cum cursu aque adjacente et in omnibus terris et tenementis predictis de cetero exigere seu vindicare poterimus set in perpetuum suimus exclusi per presentes. Preterea ego vero predictus Leo et heredes mei predictum molendinum cum cursu aque eidem molendino adjacente et omnia terras et tenementa que et quas idem Hugo habet et tenet in Tetenale et in Wythwyk que quondam fuerunt Oliveri de Wytwyk predicto Hugoni et heredibus suis et suis assignatis quibuscumque et eorum heredibus contra omnes mortales warantizabimus in perpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto quietclamationis sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Johanne de Prestewode seniore, Ricardo de Ovyoteshay, Thoma de Wollemere, Edmundo de Lutteleye, Willelmo de Hampton clerico et aliis. Datum apud Wrottesleye die Lune proximo post festum Sancti Mathei apostolici anno regni regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu decimo septimo. [22 September 1343.]¹

Seal, a shield with three pears on a bend, and the legend *Sigillum Leonis de Perton*.

A tous ceux que cestes presentes endentoures verront ou orront, Thomas de Hampton Chivaler saluz en dieu. Come Monsz Hugh de Wrottesleye Chivaler moy soit tenuz en xxiii livres desterling par sa escript obligatoire a paier a leglise de Seint Poul de Londres a la Pascheslore posthem suant apres la date de cestes, jeo le avantdit Thomas voile et grant pur moy, mes heires e mes executours

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. On the following 15 December 1343, William de Stretton released to Sir Hugh all his claim to the same mill and lands in Wythwyke. This deed was witnessed by Sir Richard Hillary, Roger de Oken, and Hervey de Oken.

Leo, or Leon de Perton, who makes the above release, was brother of William the existing Lord of Perton, and also brother to John de Perton, who had been killed in 12 Edward III in an affray respecting the mill in question. Leo was an Esquire of the King's Household, being styled a "scutifer hospitii Regis" in 12 Edward III, in which year he received compensation for a horse lost in the King's service in Scotland. In 18 Edward III, he was appointed Warden of the Castle of Bridgenorth with a fee of 6d. a day. In the following year he accompanied the King to France, and was at the battle of Crecy and siege of Calais. In 23 Edward III he was Eschaetor of co. Worcester, and was committed to the Fleet prison for contempt in not appearing at the Exchequer with his accounts. He was Eschaetor again in 36 Edward III and 40 Edward III, and in 48 Edward III he received compensation for the loss of the office, and also an annual pension of 100s. for his good service. He also held an office in the King's Household as "Pannetarius Regis," and at the peace of Bretigni was one of the members of the King's Household ordered to meet King John of France at Calais and escort him to his own capital. (Wardrobe Accounts, temp. Edward III ³¹1³.)

que si le avantdit Monsz Hugh ou ascun autre depart lui paient ou facent paier a moy ou a mon attourne portant ovesque lui le dit escript obligatoire a jour et lieu avantditz xxiii livres desterling de bon e leal moneye, adonqe lavantditz escript obligatoire soit pour nul en . . . (three words here illegible), de nyent. Et si le avantdit Monsz Hugh del paiment avantdit fail que dieu defeatt adonqe voet et grant le dit Monsz Hugh pur lui, ses heires e ses executours que lavantdit escript obligatoire de xxiii livres estoise en sa valeur e force, de lever touz les deniers susditz cestes presentes endentoures nyent contre esteant. En testmoignance de quele chose noz avanditz Monsz Hugh e Thomas a cestes presentes endentoures entrenchageablement avons mys noz seals. Done a Loudres le quart jour de Decembre lan du regne notre seigneur le roi Edward trez apres le conquest dengleterre disseptisme et de France quart.¹ [4 December 1343.]

Seal destroyed.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus hoc presens scriptum visuris vel audituris Johannes de Sutton dominus de Duddeley salutem in domino. Noveritis me reddidisse et presenti scripto meo confirmasse domino Hugoni de Wrottesley militi omnes terras et tenementa mea que et quas habui de dono et feoffamento dicti domini Hugonis in Tetenhale et Bysebury prout admesurantur, Habenda et tenenda predicto domino Hugoni et heredibus suis vel suis assignatis libere, quiete, bene et in pace in perpetuum de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per servitia inde debita et de jure consueta. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Willelmo de Perton, Henrico de Holbarwe, Ricardo in la Lone, Willelmo filio Hugonis, Johanne de Barnehurst et aliis. Datum apud Himeley die Sabati proximo post festum Sancti Mathei Apostolici anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum decimo octavo.² [1 October 1344.]

Seal destroyed.

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. The name of Sir Thomas de Hampton occurs frequently on the Rolls of Edward III. In 18 Edward III he was sent to Gascony on a special mission, and the vessel "St. Pierre," of London, was ordered to be prepared for the passage of him and his Esquires and suite. (*Rot. Vascon*, 18 Edward III.) On the Vascon Roll of 22 Edward III he is styled Steward of the Landes of Gascony, "Seneschallus Landarum." In 35 Edward III he was Sheriff of co. Southampton, and in 41 Edward III he had a pension of fifty marks a year granted to him for his good service. (Issues of the Pell, Easter, 41 Edward III.)

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. The grantor was John de Sutton, the Baron of Dudley.

William de Perton, the first witness, was Lord of Perton from 5 to 34 Edward III. He seems to have been brought up to the law, for he was never knighted, and was appointed to hear Pleas of Assize on many occasions during this reign. In 18 Edward III he was appointed Commissioner, with John Giffard of Chillington, to return the value of the lands of every person in Staffordshire from 100s. upwards. (*Rot. Pat.*, 18 Edward III, p. 2, m. 17 verso).

Richard in la Lone was of Wolverhampton and father of Andrew in la Lone, of Hampton, the ancestor of the Lanes of Kings Bromley. In 19 Edward III

Edwardus dei gratia Rex Anglie, Francie et Dominus Hibernie, Omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint, salutem. Sciatis quod de gratia nostra speciali concessimus et licenciam dedimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est, dilecto et fideli nostro Hugoni de Wroottesleye in Comitatu Stafford, includere et parcum inde facere et boscum illum sic inclusum ac parcum inde factum tenere posse sibi et heredibus suis in perpetuum sine occasione vel impedimento nostri vel heredum nostrorum, Justiciariorum, Forestariorum, Vyrdariorum, aut aliorum ballivorum seu ministeriorum nostrorum quorumcunque, dum tamen boscus ille infra metas foreste nostre non existit. In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso apud Calesium vicesimo tertio die Septembris, anno regni nostri Anglie vicesimo primo, regni vero nostri Francie octavo.¹ [23 September 1347.]

Fragment of the Great Seal shewing the King's helmet and shield.

Ex rotulo Calesii anno vicesimo primo Edwardi tertii m. 21.

Rex, etc., Archiepiscopus, etc. Sciatis nos de gratia nostra speciali concessisse et hac carta nostra confirmasse dilecto et fideli nostro Hugoni de Wroottesleye militi quod ipse et heredes sui in perpetuum habeant liberam warennam in omnibus dominicis terris suis de Wroottesleye in Comitatu Salop (*sic*) dum tamen terre ille non sint infra metas foreste nostre. Ita quod nullus intret terras illas ad fugandum in eis vel ad aliquid capiendum quod ad warennam pertineat, sine licencia et voluntate ipsius Hugonis vel heredum suorum super forisfacturam nostram decem librarum. Quare volumus et firmiter precipimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quod idem Hugo et heredes sui predicti inperpetuum habeant liberam warennam in omnibus dominicis terris suis predictis dum tamen terre ille non sint infra metas foreste nostre. Ita quod nullus intret terras illas ad fugandum in eis vel ad aliquid capiendum quod ad warennam pertineat sine licencia et voluntate ipsius Hugonis vel heredum suorum super forisfacturam nostram decem librarum sicut predictum est. Hiis testibus Edwardo Principe Wallie, Duce Cornubie et Comite Cestrie filio nostro carissimo, Henrico Comite Lancastrie, Willelmo de Bohun Comite Northampton, Laurencio de

Andrew en la Lone was Seneschal or Steward of the King's manor of Tettenhall Regis, and his seal, attached to copies of Court Rolls at Wroottesley, bears a chevron between three cinquefoils, with the legend S. Andree en la Lone. Now it is worthy of remark that this shield displays the same arms as those borne subsequently by the family of Hampton, of Stourton Castle, and it is probable that the Lanes and the Hamptons of Stourton were of the same stock. For instance, Richard de la Lone, of this deed, is, without doubt, identical with the Richard de Hampton of the previous deed of 5 October 1337.

¹ Original grant at Wroottesley, copied 1860-62. This grant is enrolled on the Calais Patent Roll, 21 Edward III, m. 5. Calais had fallen on the previous 4 August, but the King did not return to England till the 14 October.

Hastings Comite Pembroke, consanguineis nostris, Thoma de Bello-campo Comite Warwick et aliis. Data per manum nostrum apud Calesium xxiii Septembris. Per ipsum Regem.

Convenit cum Recordo. Willelmus Colet Deputatus Johannis Borough militis.¹

Pateat universis per presentes, quod ego Johannes de Hampton remisi et omnino de me et heredibus meis in perpetuum quiet-clamavi Hugoni de Wrottesleye militi et heredibus suis totum jus et clamium quod habeo vel aliquo modo habere potero in manerio de Wrottesleye et in omnibus terris et tenementis suis in Boturdone, Waterfal et Grendon cum suis pertinentiis. Ita quod nec ego Johannes nec heredes mei nec aliquis nomine nostro aliquid juris seu clamei in predicto manerio seu in predictis terris seu tenementis cum suis pertinentiis exigere seu vindicare poterimus in futurum. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum meum presentibus est appositum. Datum apud Elderstoke die lune proximo post festum Annunciationis beate Marie anno regni regis Edwardi filii Regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu vicesimo tertio.² [20 March 1349.]

Seal destroyed.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Hugo de Wrottesleye Chyvaler dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Ricardo Levesone de Wolvernehampton, Roberto de Barnthurst, capellano, et Willelmo de la Lone de Hampton totum manerium meum de Wrottesleye. Dedi etiam et concessi eisdem Ricardo, Roberto et Willelmo, molendinum meum de Wythwyke et totam terram meam in eadem villa, quod quidem molendinum et terram Oliverus de Wytwyke quondam tenuit. Dedi etiam et concessi eisdem Ricardo, Roberto et Willelmo molendinum meum quod vocatur Tryllemulne. Habenda et tenenda predicta manerium, molendina et terram cum suis pertinentiis una cum gardinis, curtilagiiis, columbariis, parcis, vivariis, hais, fossatis, marleriis, redditibus, warrennis, pascuis, pasturis, stangnis, cursu aque eisdem molendinis adjacentibus, et cum communi pasture et omnibus aliis pertinentiis suis predictis Ricardo, Roberto et Willelmo et eorum heredibus et assignatis, libere, quiete, bene et in pace de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per servitia inde debita et de jure consueta. Et ego vero predictus Hugo et heredes mei predicta manerium, etc. (Clause of warranty). In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Henrico de Bysshebury Chyvaler, Willelmo de Perton, Johanne de Perton Chyvaler, Johanne de Hampton, Johanne filio Johannis de Barnthurst et aliis. Data apud Wrottesleye die dominica proxima post festum assumptionis beate Marie anno regni

¹ Ancient copy at Wrottesley, in seventeenth century handwriting. The grant is likewise enrolled on the Calais Roll of 21 Edward III. This Roll, however, is now known at the Record Office as Patent Roll, 21 Edward III, part 2.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. Although the John de Hampton of this deed is not styled a Knight, he is apparently identical with the Sir John de Hampton of the deed of 5 April 1337, see *ante*, pp. 157, 158.

regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu vicesimo tertio.¹ [16 August 1349.]



Sciant presentes et futuri quod nos Ricardus Levesone de Wolvernehampton, Robertus de Barnthurst capellanus, et Willelmus de la Lone de Hampton dedimus, concessimus, et hac carta nostra confirmavimus Hugoni de Wrottesleye Chyvaler manerium de Wrottesleye cum pertinentiis. Dedimus etiam et concessimus eidem Hugoni molendinum quod vocatur Tryllemulne cum pertinentiis. Dedimus etiam et concessimus eidem Hugoni molendinum de Wythwyk et totam terram quam habuimus in eadem villa ex dono et feoffamento predicti Hugonis. Habenda et tenenda predictum manerium cum pertinentiis et predicta molendina et terram cum pertinentiis una cum gardinis, curtilagiis, columbariis, vivariis, stangnis, marleriis, pasturis, parcis, haiis, fossatis, warennis et cum cursu aque eisdem molendinis adjacente cum omnibus aliis pertinentiis suis, et cum communi pasture, predicto Hugoni et illi quam predictus Hugo primo duxit in uxorem et heredibus de corpore predicti Hugonis legitime procreatis, libere, quiete, bene et in pace, de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta. Et si predictus Hugo decedat sine heredibus de corpore suo legitime procreatis, tunc volumus

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley copied 1860-62. Sir John de Perton, the third witness, was the son of William de Perton, of Perton, and was a somewhat distinguished Knight of this era. In 10 Edward III he served in Scotland in the retinue of Ralph, Lord Stafford, and again in the following year. In 19 and 20 Edward III, he was serving in France in the retinue of William de Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon, and was at Crecy and Calais. (French Rolls, 19, 20 and 21 Edward III.) In 29 Edward III, he was in France in the retinue of Henry, Duke of Lancaster. (Rot. Franc, 40 Edward III). He died in 12 Richard II. (Inq., p.m.)

John de Barnthurst was the tenant at the Barnhurst in Tettenhall. John, the younger, married Joan the sister of Sir John de Perton. (Inq., p. m. 12 Richard I.)

By a deed of the same date as the above, Sir Hugh de Wrottesley conveyed all his goods and chattels moveable and immoveable to the same trustees. This deed was witnessed by Sir Henry de Eyshebury, Sir John de Pertou, John de Hampton, John de Barnthurst, and John de Tettebury.

et concedimus quod predicta manerium cum pertinentiis, molendina et terra cum omnibus eorum pertinentiis ut predictum est, remaneant Johanni filio Johannis de Tettebury fratri predicti Hugonis, et heredibus masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis, tenenda de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per servitia que ad dicta tenementa pertinent. Et si predictus Johannes decedat sine herede masculo de corpore suo legitime procreato, tunc volumus et concedimus quod predicta manerium cum pertinentiis, molendina et terra cum omnibus eorum pertinentiis ut predictum est, remaneant Willelmo fratri ejusdem Johannis et heredibus masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis. Tenenda, etc. (*as before*) et si predictus Willelmus decedat sine herede masculo de corpore suo, etc., tunc volumus etc. (*as before*) remaneant Waltero fratri ejusdem Willelmi et heredibus masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis. Tenenda etc. (*as before*) et si predictus Walterus decedat sine herede masculo de corpore suo etc. tunc volumus etc. (*as before*) remaneant Thome fratri ejusdem Walteri et heredibus masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis Tenenda etc. (*as before*). Et si predictus Thomas decedat sine herede masculo de corpore suo etc. tunc volumus etc. Leoni fratri ejusdem Thome et heredibus masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis Tenenda etc. (*as before*). Et si predictus Leo decedat sine herede masculo de corpore suo etc. tunc volumus et concedimus quod predicta manerium cum pertinentiis, molendina et terra cum omnibus eorum pertinentiis remaneant rectis heredibus predicti Hugonis in perpetuum. Hiis testibus, Henrico de Bysshebury Chyvaler, Willelmo de Perton, Johanne de Perton Chyvaler, Ricardo de Holbarwe persona ecclesie de Elderstoke, Johanne de Hampton et aliis Data apud Wrottesley die dominica in vigilia Sancti Bartolomei Apostolici anno regni regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu vicesimo tertio.¹ [23 August 1349.]

The seal of William de la Lone was perfect and consisted of a shield, in the centre of which was a lion's head forming a boss surrounded by three cinquefoils, two and one. Legend, S. Willi de Wolvernehampton.

Johannes Musard Vicecomes Staffordie, Ballivo de Cuteleston salutem. Ex parte domini Regis tibi mando quod liberes Hugoni de Wrottesleye custodiam terrarum et tenementorum que fuerunt Willelmi de Pilatenhale defuncti, qui de domino Rege tenuit in capite et que ratione minoris etatis Johannis filii Johannis de Kenilworth et Margarete sororis ipsius Johannis filii Johannis, et Willelmi filii Ricardi de Engelton consanguineorum et heredum predicti Willelmi de Pilatenhale in manu nostra existunt. Haben-

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley. copied 1860-62.

Richard Leveson was member of a family which had been settled at Wednesbury since the reign of Henry III. He married Margaret, daughter and heir of Hervey, son of Clement of Wolverhampton, and obtained with her a considerable estate in that town. (Erdeswick's Staffordshire).

William de la Lone was son of Richard de la Lone of Hampton, and brother of Andrew; the latter appears to have been the head of the family.

dam una cum balliva de Teddesleye ac omnibus aliis ad custodiam illam spectantibus usque ad legitimam etatem heredum predictorum simul cum maritagii heredum eorundem absque disparagatione et absque aliquo domino Regi reddendo. Et hoc non omitas.¹

Edwardus de gratia Rex Anglie, Francie, et Dominus Hibernie, omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint, salutem, Sciatis quod de gratia nostra speciali et pro bono servitio quod Hugo de Wroottesle miles impendit in partibus transmarinis perdonavimus ei sectam pacis nostre que ad nos pertinet pro morte Johannis de Perton ante vicesimum octavum diem Novembris anno regni nostro duodecimo² ut dicitur interfecti, unde indictatus, rettatus, seu appellatus existit, ac etiam utlagariam si qua in ipsum ea occasione fuerit promulgatam et firmam pacem ei inde concedimus, ita tamen quod stet recto in curia nostra si quis versus eum loqui voluerit de morte predicta. Teste meipso, datum apud Westmonasterium anno regni nostri vicesimo septimo, regni vero nostri Francie quarto decimo.³

Great Seal of Edward III, complete.

Ceste endente fatte parentre notre Seigneur le Roi dune part e Monsz Hugh de Wroottesley Chivaler dautre part testmoigne que come le dit Monsz Hugh soit tenuz a notre dit Seigneur le Roi par une reconissance fatte en sa chauncellerie en deux mille livres dargent apparer a la Quineme de Seint Johan le Baptiste posthem avenir come en la dite reconissance plus pleynement est contenuz, le dit notre Seigneur le Roi volt e grant por lui e ses heirs que si lavant dit Monsz Hugh ne null autre par son procurement ne assent desormes ne trespasse a Katerine de Lutteley, Phelip de Lutteley, William de Perton, Johan de Perton e Leon de Perton ne a null de eux en corps ne en biens que adonques la dite reconissance perde sa force, e le dit Monsz Hugh volt e grant par lui e ses heirs e ses executours que sil ou ascun autre par son assent ou procurement desormes trespasse a les avantditz Katherine, Phelip, William, Johan e Leon ou a ascun de eux en corps ne en biens que adonques la dite reconissance de deux mille livres estoise en sa force. En testmoignance de quele chose notre Seigneur le Roi a la partie de ceste endente demourant deuz le dit Monsz Hugh ad mys son seal, e a la partie de ceste endente demourant denz le dit notre Seigneur le Roi le dit Monsz Hugh ad mys son seal. Don a Westmonastere le oytisme jour de martz lan du regne notre dit Seigneur le Roi dengleterre vynt noesisme e de France sessime.⁴ [8 March 1355.]

Great Seal of Edward III.

¹ Original writ at Wroottesley, copied 1860-62.

² This was the date of the original pardon granted to Sir Hugh at Antwerp in 12 Edward III. The above pardon is recorded on the Patent Roll, 27 Edward III, part 1, m. 1, with this note appended to it in the margin: "Innovata quia alia fuit consignata per ipsum Regem."

The Great Seal was not at Antwerp, and the original pardon was issued by a writ of privy seal.

³ Original Letters Patent at Wroottesley, copied 1860-62.

⁴ Original Indenture at Wroottesley, copied 1860.

Sachent touz nos Robert de Barnthurst, Nichol de Oken e William de Evenefeld Chapeleyns estre tenuz et par ceste lettre estre obligiez a Monsz Hugh de Wrottesleye Chivaler en quatrecentz livres d'argent de annual rente a rescognere de an en an a tous jours al terme de Seynt Michel de les manoirs de Wrottesleye e Boterdone e de totes les terres e tenementz, molyns, rentes e services queux nos avoions del donn e feoffement le dit Monsz Hugh denz le Counte Destafford. Et si ency soit que la dite annuelte de quatrecentz livres ne soit resonablement paie a terme susdit que bien lice a dit Monsz Hugh en les avantditz manoirs, terres e tenementz, molyns, rentes e services, e en totes les bienz e chateaux queux nos avoions del donn le dit Monsz Hugh entrer, e mesmes les manoirs, terres, e tenementz, molyns rentes e services, bienz e chateaux avauntditz bien e pesiblement tenir e user per noz e noz heyrz ou executours a tous jours. En testimoniance de quele chose as cestes presentes lettres avons mys noz seaux. Donnez a Wrottesleye le Samedy posthem apres le feste de Seynt Ambrose evesque lan de regne Roy Edward tiercz apres le conquete trestysme.¹ [8 April 1356.]

Seals destroyed.

Edwardus dei gratia Rex Anglie, Francie et dominus Hibernie, omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint, salutem. Sciatis quod cum nuper concessimus dilecto et fideli nostro Hugoni de Wrottesleye omnia bona et catalla sua nobis occasione ejusdem utlagarie in ipsum promulgate, forisfacta, habenda de dono nostro, ac dilectus vallettus noster Johannes atte Wode, nuper firmarius manerii de Kynefare tempore quo manerium illud in manu nostra ut parcella terrarum que fuerunt predicti Hugonis occasione utlagarie predictie existentis novem libras de firma manerii predicti nobis ad Scaccarium nostrum ut dicitur solvit. nos pretextu concessionis nostre predictie volumus quod diete novem libre, nobis ad dictum seaccarium per prefatum Johannem sic solute, eidem Hugoni resolventur. In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso, Data apud Westinonasterium, xii die Novembris, anno regni nostri Anglie tricesimo primo, regni vero nostri Francie decimo octavo. Per breve de privato sigillo. Newench. [12 November 1357].²

Fragment of Great Seal.

Noverint universi me Hugonem de Wrottesley militem donasse Johanni de Titteley, capellano, et Johanni de Whitechurche capellano, omnia bona et catalla mea, mobilia et immobilia sine ullo retenemento, ita quod possint voluntatem suam inde facere sine aliqua contradictione mea vel alicujus nomine meo. In cujus rei testi-

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² Original Letters Patent at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. John atte Wode, the King's "valettus," had married Lucy, one of the ladies of the Queen's Household, for on the Patent Roll of 40 Edward III, Lucy, formerly wife of John atte Wode, late "domicella camere" of the Queen, receives a grant of 20 marks annually, to be paid from the fee farm rents of Staffordshire.

monium huic scripto sigillum meum apposui. Datum apud Wrottesley die Martis proximo post festum Epiphanie domini, anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum tricesimo octavo.¹ [7 January 1365].

Seal destroyed.

Pateat universis per presentes nos Radulphum Comitem Staffordie remississe, relaxasse, et omnino pro nobis et heredibus nostris in perpetuum quietum clamasse Hugoni de Wrottesley Chivaler totum jus, actionem et clamium quod habemus, habuimus seu quovismodo habere poterimus in maneriis de Wrottesley et Boturdon cum pertinentiis, ita quod nec nos predictus Comes nec aliquis alius nomine nostro aliquid juris seu clamei in predictis maneriis cum pertinentiis exigere vel vendicare poterimus, set per presentes de cetero sumus exclusi inperpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto sigillum nostrum apposuimus. Hiis testibus, Jacobo de Pipe Chyvaler, Nicholao de Beck Chyvaler, et Johanne de Verdon Chyvaler. Datum apud Chebbeseye die Sabati proximo post festum Natalis domini anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum tricesimo octavo. [28 Dec. 1364].²

Seal destroyed.

Hec indentura facta inter Hugonem de Wrottesleye militem ex parte una, et Johannem de Tittleley capellanum ex parte altera testatur quod predictus Johannes concessit et hac presenti carta sua indentata confirmavit predicto Hugoni omnia terras et tenementa sua redditus et servitia cum reversionibus et omnibus aliis pertinentiis suis que habuit ex dono et feoffamento predicti Hugonis in Boterdone, Waterfall, et Grindon, Habenda et tenenda eidem Hugoni ad terminum vite sue de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per servitia que ad predicta tenementa pertinent tota vita ipsius Hugonis ita quod post decessum predicti Hugonis omnia predicta terre et tenementa etc. remaneant Johanni filio Cecilie de Pynyngton, Habenda et tenenda omnia predicta terre etc. predicto Johanni filio Cecilie ad terminum vite ipsius Johannis filii Cecilie, de capitalibus dominis etc. ita quod post decessum predicti Johannis filii Cecilie omnia predicta terre etc. remaneant heredibus masculis de corpore predicti Hugonis exeuntibus, tenenda de capitalibus dominis etc. Et si contingat quod predictus Hugo obierit sine herede masculo de corpore suo exeunte, omnia predicta terre et tenementa etc. remaneant heredibus masculis de corpore predicti Johannis filii Cecilie exeuntibus, Tenenda de capitalibus dominis etc. Et si contingat quod predictus Johannes filius Cecilie obierit sine herede masculo de corpore suo exeunte, omnia predicta terre et tenementa etc. remaneant Willelmo filio Hammell atte Walle et heredibus masculis de corpore suo exeuntibus, Tenenda de capi-

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. Sir James de Pipe was half-brother to Ralph, Earl of Stafford, and held several important offices in France at various times. He is mentioned in Froissart's Chronicles. Sir Nicholas de Beck was lord of Hopton and Tean, co. Stafford, and Sir John de Verdon was lord of Darlaston, near Stone.

talibus dominis etc. Et si contingat quod predictus Willelmus obierit sine herede masculo de corpore suo exeunte, omnia predicta terre et tenementa etc. remaneant Waltero de Tettebury et heredibus masculis de corpore suo exeuntibus, Tenenda de capitalibus dominis etc. Et si contingat quod predictus Walterus obierit sine herede masculo de corpore suo exeunte, omnia predicta terre et tenementa etc. remaneant Johanni de Kenilworth et heredibus masculis de corpore suo exeuntibus, Tenenda de capitalibus dominis etc. Et si contingat quod predictus Johannes de Kenilworth obierit sine herede masculo de corpore suo exeunte, omnia predicta terre et tenementa etc. remaneant rectis heredibus predicti Hugonis, Tenenda de capitalibus dominis etc. Et predictus Johannes de Tittley et heredes sui etc. (*clause of warranty*). In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte indentate sigillum predicti Johannis de Tittley est appensum. Hiis testibus, Willelmo Carles, Fulcone de Pembrugge militibus, Henrico de Bishebury, Johanne Buffry, Rogero Leveson et aliis. Data apud Wrottesleye die Lune proximo post clausum Pasche anni regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum quadragesimo.¹

Seal destroyed.

Acorde est per mediation de bones amys entre Monsz Hugh de Wrottesleye Chivaler dun part e Adam de Peeshale e Elizabet sa femme daltre part que le avantdit Monsz Hugh suffra les ditz Adam et Elizabet avoir la livre hors de la mayn le Roy de la tierce partie du seignurie e manere de Talgarth Engleys en la marche de Galys que Johanne que fuist la femme Phelip Aprees Chivaler en sa vye tynt en nom de dowere de heritage la dite Elizabet et dun mees appelle Jonesfeld et deux columbers trent acres de terre et un croft appelle Gylotselos et un parcelle de terre appelle Home e deux parcelles de pasture appelle Mulle Orchard e More, e du Park de Talgarth, et apres la livre a eux faite les ditz Adam et Elizabet ou les heirs Elizabet auxi toust come ils powent, bonement graunterunt et lesserunt per fyn leve en la court nostre seigneur le Roi avoir et tener a dite Monsz Hugh a terme de sa vie en la forme desouthescript et ceo a lour comune costage owelement, et per license de Roy que le dit Monsz Hugh a ces custages propres purchase la dite tierce partie e tous les tenemens avauntnomes et altresi lautre tierce de mesme le manere quele lavantdit Adam et Elizabet avoyent en la vie la dite Johanne ensemblement ou garaunt quex afiert dens le dit manere et seignurie ou tous maneres de regantes franchises et aportenaunces entierement value, que bien lise a les ditz Adam et Elizabet et les heysr Elizabet le boys cressaunt en le dit park couper et ameuer a lour volante ou frank entre et issue por cariage faire issint tust temps, que le

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. The first witness, Sir William Carles, was Lord of Ryton and Albrighton, co. Salop. (Eyton's Shropshire). Sir Fulk de Pembrugge was Lord of Tong, co. Salop. This deed is endorsed "*Irrotulata in Banco Rotulo primo de cartis et protectionibus de termino Pasche anno regni Regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu quadragesimo,*" and is enrolled as stated.

profit derbage housbote e heybote, pawnage, agistemens et tous autres profits de susditz park soyent a dit Monsz Hugh aver e tener a luy et a ses assignes por terme de sa vye rendant a ditz Adam et Elizabet et a les heirs Elizabet quarante livres par an a deux termes cest asavoir lannunciation nostre dame et Seynt Michel par owels portions ou garauntye accorde [. . .] [. . .] e si la rente seyt arere a ascuns de termes surditz bien lise a eux et a les heirs Elizabet destreindre en tous les avauntditz [. . .] [. . .] en lautre tiers partye de mesme le manere que le avauntdit Monsz Hugh tient par la ley dengleterre deurant le lees susdite e si la dite rente [. . .] tust ou en parcel demerge issint aderere tanqe sys simeynes apres ascunes de termes susditz soyent passes adunqe bien lise a eux et les heirs Elizabet en tous les tenemens avantuomes et par eux a dit Monsz Hugh lesses reentrer et en leur premer estat tener quites de dit Monsz Hugh a tous jours et lavauntdit Monsz Hugh veut e graunte que le dite garantye fait par le dit Adam cesse e soyt voyde devers luy si la dite Elizabet devye sauns issue entre le dit Adam e luy et outre qil ne vochera ne priera en eyde sul soyt emplede nulle sermoun¹ Adam et Elizabet, ou si Adam devye, Elizabet ou ses heyres, e si par vocher ou par brief de garauntye de chartre il entre ou entrount en la garauntye et fait ou fount garant quex resonablement afiert a mentineyns les susditz tenements avant lesses sauns collusion ou mal engyn de les ditz Adam et Elizabet ou les heyres Elizabet soyent [. . .] qil naura mye a la value per cause de cele perde e le ditz Adam et Elizabet et les heyres Elizabet garauntrunt de mettre la moyte de costages et le Monsz Hugh laltre moyte pour defendre le dit manere ou ascun parcel de icele sul seyt demaunde en la Court le Roy ou ayllors. Et les ditz parties sunt accordes que les affeurtres que remeynont a faire a un part ou daltre tochauns les ditz covenans serunt faites quant temps vendra qil besogne destre faites. Et a ces covenans bien e lelment tener et performer les ditz Monsz Hugh et Adam sount par leur foyes entre affyes. Et en tesnoniaunce de quelles choses a cestes endentures les parties susditz entrechaungablement out mys leurs scales. Done a Westmonstier le Vendredi en la Feste Seint Luk le Wangelist lan de reigne le Roy Edward tierce puy le conquete qarauntune quarte.² [18 October 1370].

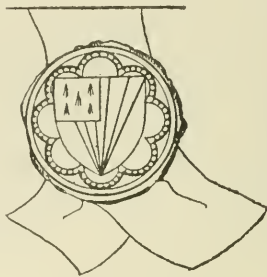
Seal, a chevron between three heads of an animal regardant.
Legend, Sigillum Thome Gech.

Pateat universis per presentes me Walterum de Wrottesley remississe, relaxasse, et in perpetuum pro me et heredibus meis quietum clamasse Hugoni de Wrottesley militi, totum jus meum et clamium quod habui, habeo, seu quovismodo habere potero in manerio de Wrottesley cum pertinentiis. Ita quod nec ego predictus Walterus nec heredes mei nec aliquis alius nomine nostro in predicto manerio cum pertinentiis aliquod jus vel clameum de

¹ This word is doubtful.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

cetero exigere vel vendicare poterimus, set per presentes ab omni actione [...] [...] juris vel clamei in eodem manerio in perpetuum sumus exclusi. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Johanne de Perton milite, Ricardo de Hampton, Ricardo Levesone, Henrico de Bisshebury, Adam Waryng et aliis. Datum apud Wrottesley die Jovis proximo post festum Annunciationis beate Marie anno regni Regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum Anglie quadragesimo septimo.¹ [31 March 1373].



Cest endentoure fait perentre Monsz Hugh de Wrottesley Chivaler dun part et Wautier de Wrottesley e Johan de Pilatnhale daltre part tesmoigne que le dit Monsz Hugh enfeffera Henri de Tynmore persone de Eglise de Elleford e Henri de Oldefalyng Chapleyn en le manere de Wrottesley ove tous ses appotonauntz sous tel condiscion que les ditz Henri e Henri enfefferont le ditz Monsz Hugh e Isabell sa femme e les heirs de dit Monsz Hugh engendres, a tous jours, e si le dit Monsz Hugh deveye sauntz heirs de son corps engendres, adonques le manere susdit remeigne au dit Wauter e ses heirs males de son corps engendres a tous jours, e si le dit Walter (*sic*) deveye sauntz heirs males de son corps engendres, adonques le manere susdit remeigne a Johan de Pilattenhale e a ses heirs males de son corps engendres a tous jours, e si le dit Johan deveye sauns heir de son corps engendre adonques le manere susdit remeigne a droit heirs a dit Monsz Hugh a tous jours. En testmoignauntz de queles choses a cestes endentures les parties avaunditz ount mys leurs seals. Done a Wrottesley le vendredi posthem apres le feste de annunciation de notre dame lan de regne notre seigneur le roi Edward tierce puis le conquete quarante seun.² [1 April 1373.]

Seals destroyed.

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. Respecting the witnesses, Sir John de Pertou has been already named: Richard Leveson was of Wolverhampton, and an Esquire of some note. He was subsequently in the Household of Henry IV, and after the battle of Shrewsbury he petitioned the King for a pension of £10 from the issues of co Stafford. In his petition he asks for a pension on the ground of his services in Scotland, at Calais, and at the battle of Salop, when he was so wounded and maimed that his life was despaired of. (Petitions to King and Council). Henry de Bisshebury was Lord of Bushbury and Upper Penn.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Hugo de Wrottesley miles dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Henrico de Tynmore persone ecclesie de Elleford, et Henrico de Oldefalynch capellano manerium meum de Wrottesley cum omnibus suis pertinentiis. Habendum et tenendum predictum manerium cum omnibus pertinentiis suis predictis Henrico et Henrico, heredibus et assignatis suis libere, quiete, bene et in pace in perpetuum de capitali domino feodi illius per servitia inde debita et de jure consueta. Et ego vero predictus Hugo (*clause of warranty*). In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte mee sigillum apposui. Hiis testibus Ricardo de Duddleley Chivaler, Johanne de Perton, Chivaler, Rogero Hillary, Chivaler, Ricardo Levesone, Johanne de Prestwode, Henrico de Bisshebury et aliis. Data apud Wrottesley die veneris proximo ante festum Sancte Crucis anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum quadragesimo septimo.¹ [1 April 1373].



On the Wednesday before the Feast of St. Dunstan the Bishop, 47 Edward III [September 1373], the above named trustees conveyed the manor of Wrottesley to Sir Hugh de Wrottesley and Isabella, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, with remainders according to the Indenture in French, between Sir Hugh and Walter de Wrottesley, and John de Pilatonhale, dated the 1 April preceding. This deed is witnessed by Sir Richard Duddleley, Sir John de Perton, Sir Roger Hillary, Richard Levesone, Adam Waryng, and John de Prestwode. Dated from Wrottesley, as above.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Ricardus de Stafford, miles, dedi, concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Hugoni de

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. Sir Richard de Duddleley, the first witness, was the second husband of Isabella, the widow of John de Sutton, the Baron of Dudley, who died in 1360. His parentage is unknown. (See Grazebrook's Barons of Dudley, vol. ix of Staffordshire Collections, pp. 56-58).

Sir Roger Hillary was son of the Judge of the Common Pleas of the same name. The latter had made large purchases of lands and reversions at Walsall, Wednesbury, Handsworth, Great Barre, Nether Penn, and other places in Staffordshire.

Wrottesley Chivaler et Isabelle uxori ejus maneria mea de Wrottesley et Boterdon cum pertinentiis in Comitatu Staffordie. Habenda et tenenda maneria predicta cum pertinentiis predictis Hugoni et Isabelle et heredibus de corpore ipsius Hugonis legitime procreatis de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicia inde debita et consueta in perpetuum, et si contingat quod predictus Hugo sine heredibus de corpore suo procreatis obierit, tunc maneria predicta cum pertinentiis suis post decessum ipsorum Hugonis et Isabelle mihi et heredibus meis revertant in perpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Thoma de Ardene, Chivaler, Johanne de Verdon, Chivaler, Willelmo Colesone, Ricardo Levesone, Willelmo de Huton et aliis. Data apud Clifton Camvyllie die dominica proxima post festum exaltationis Sancte Crucis, anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum quinquagesimo.¹ [13 October 1376].

Seal, a chevron vaire between three martlets. Legend, S. Ricardi de Stafford.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Hugo de Wrotteslegh miles dedi concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Willelmo filio meo omnia terras et tenementa mea ac redditus et servicia omnium tenementorum meorum in villa de Tetenhale et in villa de Codsale una cum molendino et stangno quod vocatur bordunsmulne. Habenda et tenenda omnia predicta terras et tenementa redditus, et servicia predicta simul cum molendino predicto cum omnibus suis pertinentiis prefato Willelmo filio meo de capitali domino feodi illius per servicia que ad predicta tenementa pertinent. Et ego vero predictus Hugo et heredes mei omnia predicta terras et tenementa redditus et servicia, cum molendino predicto cum omnibus suis pertinentiis prefato Willelmo ad terminum vite sue, et post mortem ipsius Willelmi volo quod omnia prenominata remaneant rectis heredibus meis, contra omnes gentes warantizabimus et in forma predicta defendemus (*sic*). In cujus rei testimonium sigillum apposui. Hiis testibus Waltero le Hozre, Johanne de Prestewode, Johanne de Waterfal, Willelmo de Engulton, et aliis. Data apud Wrotteslegh die lune proximo post festum Sancti Hillarii anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum Anglie quarto. [14 January 1381].²

Seal the same as on deed of 1 April 1373.

On the same date, and in the same terms, Sir Hugh granted all his lands and tenements in Beckebury and in Wybaston, together with a water mill in Wybaston, to his son Richard, to be held for term of his life. The witnesses

¹ Sir Richard de Stafford was a Knight Banneret and brother of Ralph, the Earl of Stafford. He was a distinguished Knight of the period, and is frequently mentioned by Froissart. The first witness, Sir Thomas Arderne, was brother to Isabella, the wife of Sir Hugh, and was married to a daughter of Sir Richard de Stafford.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

are the same as in the last deed, with the addition of William Wyse and Adam Thomkynsone, of Oldwalyng.¹ Wybaston is a hamlet in Bushbury parish.

Besides the above deeds, there was formerly at Wrottesley the record of a Manor Court, held on the Monday before Christmas Day, 1 Richard II (21 December 1377). The jury consisted of:—

Thomas Syberne,	William Bolton,
William Suker,	John Taillour,
Henry Leegh,	Richard Seys, and
William Relyvaunt,	William Taillour.

No lord is named, the Court being held "*per essoniam*." A few fines were inflicted, but the proceedings contain no feature of any interest, and the Court is only mentioned here because it is the earliest Manor Court of which the proceedings were preserved at Wrottesley. The accounts of the Wrottesley Bailiff, printed at p. 71, mention two Courts held in the months of August and November in the year 1294, and there is no doubt they were held periodically from the earliest times, but none of the proceedings of any Court anterior to 1377 had been discovered at Wrottesley up to the date of the destruction of the deeds in 1897.

INTERREGNUM, 1381 TO 1400.

On the death of Sir Hugh, the controversy respecting the tenure of the manor was again revived, and the Abbot of Evesham claimed the custody and marriage of the infant heir. Isabella, the widow of Sir Hugh, survived him for a few months only, during which time she would hold possession of the manor under the deed of 1373. Up to the date of her death, she appears also to have retained the custody of all her children, and when that event occurred, on the 30 September 1381, her brother, Sir Thomas de Arderne, carried away the heir, in order to forestall the Abbot, when the latter took possession of the manor. If the tenure of Wrottesley was one by socage, the nearest relative not in the line of succession would be entitled to the custody of the lands and person of the heir.

It appears to have been overlooked at the date of her death that Isabella was a tenant *in capite* in Cheshire, and the writ of "*diem clausit extremum*" was not issued till the 16 March 1401. At this date Hugh, the young heir, had died, and had been succeeded by a brother John. The writ,

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

which is tested by Henry de Percy, the famous Hotspur, who was Justiciary of Cheshire, directs the Escheator to return what lands and tenements Isabella, late wife of Hugh de Wrotteslegh, Kt., deceased, held in his Bailiwick on the day she died, what they were worth per annum, on what day the said Isabella had died, who was her nearest heir, and his age, and if the heir was married or not. And if he was married, to return by whom, and when, and how, and by what means, "*per quem, quo tempore, qualiter, et quo modo.*"

The Inquisition was taken at Wich Malbane (Nantwich) by Richard de Manley the Eschaetor, on the 22 March 1401, on the oath of Richard de Vernon, Kt., Arthur de Davenport, Richard, son of Robert de Cholmundelegh, Thomas de Twenlowe, William le Bailly of Buddeworth, Robert de Bulkeley of Ridalbeth, and six others, who stated that Isabella had been jointly enfeoffed with Hugh, formerly her husband, in the third part of a messuage and thirty acres of land in Buddeworth, in Le Fryth, by the gift and feoffment of John Burdele, Kt., and Katrine, his wife, the license of the late King having been acquired for a Fine of 10s., and that the said third part was held of the Earl of Chester by military service, and was worth 8s. annually, and she had died likewise seised in demesne as of fee of another parcel of the same messuage and land which was held in the same way of the Earl, and was worth 8s. annually. After naming some other small tenures in Tyresford and Kelsall they added that Isabella had died on the Monday after Michaelmas Day, 5 Richard II (30 September 1381), and that John, the son of the said Hugh and Isabella, was the nearest heir of Isabella, and was twenty-one years of age on Wednesday the Feast of St. Michael last past, and that Robert de Legh, Kt., had occupied the lands and tenements of the said Isabella from the date of her death, by a demise of the Eschaetors, who had held that office up to the present time, and had received the issues and profits of the land; and that the said John had been married by the Abbot of Evesham to one Elizabeth, the daughter of Robert de Standysse, Kt., on the Monday after the close of Easter, 8 Richard II (10 April 1385) because the said Hugh, the father of John, had held the manor of Wrotteslegh of the said Abbot and his predecessors by military service.¹

It will be noted that the Abbot in his hurry to forestall other claimants had married the young heir to Elizabeth Standish, when he was between five and six years of age.

Shortly after the death of Isabella, a Manor Court was

¹ Cheshire Inquisitions, Public Record Office.

held at Wrottesley in the name of the young heir, the proceedings being headed, "*Curia de Wrottesleye, tempore Hugonis filii Hugonis de Wrottesleye Chivaler, infra etatem existentis.*" This was done apparently by way of substantiating his claim, but no homage is named, and there is but one entry on it of a purely formal nature.¹ Shortly afterwards the Abbot took possession, appointed a Steward and held a Manor Court on the 9 January 1382. The proceedings of this Court are interesting, as they contain the customs of the manor and the names of all the tenants, but as it has been printed *in extenso* by Mr. Jones in his history of the Parish of Tettenhall, I propose here to give a short synopsis only of it.

The proceedings are written in Latin on parchment, and are headed :—

WROTTESELEYE.—Curia Rogeri Abbatis de Evesham Custodis manerii de Wrottesleye cum pertinentiis et Hugonis filii Hugonis de Wrottesleye Chivaler et Isabelle uxoris ejus, et in custodia ejusdem Abbatis existentis quorum custodia ad predictum Abbatem ratione minoris etatis ejusdem Hugonis filii Hugonis de jure pertinet, eo quod dictum manerium cum pertinentiis de predicto Abbate et successoribus suis per servitium militare tenetur; tenta apud Wrottesleye die Jovis proximo post festum Epiphanie sancti anno regni Ricardi secundi post conquestum quinto, tempore Thome Neubolt Seneschalli.

The Homage consisted of the following tenants :—

*William Carte,	*William Richardes,
Thomas Rogerson,	Richard Cook,
*John of the Grene,	*Richard of the Grene,
*John Hugynes,	Robert de Berneyc,
John Fraunceys,	*Thomas of the Leye,
Geoffrey Glasebury,	Adam Smyth,
*Thomas Rogerson, ²	John Milward, and
Hugh Wyse,	Walter Seys.
John Hardehbury,	

Ten of these tenants held each a virgate of land, and the others were crofters or cottagers. Of the tenants who held virgates of land, six were natives of the manor holding in bondage, the other four were free tenants, holding by a servile tenure. Those who held in bondage describe themselves as *nativi domini*, and state that they held their land *in bondagio*. The other tenants simply state that they held their lands *native*, viz., as a native. Besides these,

¹ Original Court Roll at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² There were two Thomas Rogersons, one a freeman and the other a native of the manor holding a cottage.

there were two women tenants holding cottages and gardens, one of whom, Isolda of the Grene, was a lord's native; the other, Juliana Snel or Snel, was a free woman. Another native of the manor, Hugh Roberdes, had lately died, leaving an only daughter, Julia, who had been married with the permission of the lord to Robert de Berneye, and the latter had paid a fine to be admitted tenant in place of Hugh. The natives of the manor are marked in the above list with an asterisk.

All the tenants paid an annual rent in money, which varied for each virgate of land from 14s. up to 23s. The cottagers paid from 1s. to 2s., and one tenant, Geoffrey Glasebury, held six crofts at the will of the lord, which had fallen into the lord's hands by the default of the tenants, and for which he paid 12s. 10d. annually. The sum total of the rents came to £9 16s. 11d. Every holder of a virgate of land, besides the money rent, owed suit of Court every three weeks, and a heriot when it fell due, and the work of one man for two days in the autumn, and for each day that he worked the lord found him a competent repast (*unum repastum competens*), and after the death of each of these tenants the lord would have all his horses and male colts, half of his pigs and hogs, and his boar if there should be one, or 40d. in lieu of it, if none could be found, according to the custom of the manor. Each tenant of a virgate performed fealty as established by custom (*et fecit fidelitatem quod idem instituitur, de corpore et catallis*).

The cottagers and crofters held, some at the will of the lord, and some for life, and the male tenants amongst them owed besides their money rent, suit of Court, and a heriot when it fell due.

The Homage assessed the annual value of four carucates of the demesne lands, woods, pastures, etc., and the three mills, at £12 13s. 2d. The mills were the Trillemull, the Wyghtwyke Mull, and le Newe Mull; the two last were held of Henry de Fereres, Lord of Groby, as of his manor of Tettenhall, by the service of a small quit-rent. The Trillemull was a mill in Orton.

The Homage at the close of the proceedings made a presentment, which was evidently dictated by the Abbot or his Steward. It states that Hugh de Wrottesley, Chivaler, and Isabella, his wife, jointly enfeoffed, held *in capite* and by Knight's service, the manor of Wrottesleye of the Abbot of Evesham, and that Hugh had died on the Tuesday before the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary in 4 Richard II (20 January 1381) and that the Abbot had had no heriot after his death, and that Isabella had survived her husband, and died on the Sunday after the Feast of St. Michael, 5 Richard II (5 October 1381), and after her

death there fell to the Abbot, a brown ox, worth 13s. 4d., as a heriot, and that Hugh, the son of the said Hugh and Isabella, was their nearest heir, and was six years old and upwards at the date of the death of the said Isabella, and that his wardship and marriage, and the custody of the aforesaid manor, rightly belonged to the Abbot, and that Thomas de Arderne, Chivaler, had unjustly taken and abducted from Wrottesleye, the said Hugh, son of Hugh.¹

A memorandum at the end of the proceedings states that the heriot of the said Isabella, viz., the *bos broun*, had been sent to Ombersley. This was the native place of the Abbot, Roger Zatton, and it appears, therefore, that the worthy Abbot appropriated the heriots to himself instead of handing them over to the monastery.

Upon the death of Isabella, the Abbot, by a deed in French, dated from Evesham, on the Monday after the Feast of All Saints', 5 Richard II (4 November 1381), granted the custody of all the lands, tenements, services, and rents, together "with the bodies of the villeins" (*ove corps des vileins*), which Monsieur Hugh de Wrottesleye and Isabella, his wife, held of him at Wrottesleye, to Sir Nicholas de Stafford, and his executors and assigns, to be held by them till the full age of Hugh, son and heir of the said Hugh and Isabella, and if the said Hugh, the son, should die within age, to hold the same till the full age of any other heir, being under age, rendering annually to the Abbot 13s. 4d. It will be observed that the rent reserved was only the chief rent of one mark payable to the Monastery, and as Sir Nicholas de Stafford was brother to Katharine, the wife of Sir Thomas Arderne, who had carried off the heir, it would appear as if some compromise had been effected, and in consideration of Sir Nicholas paying no rent for the manor, the claim of the Abbot to the wardship and custody of the heir had been admitted.

Sir Nicholas de Stafford, to whom the custody of the manor had been now entrusted, was a younger son of Sir Richard de Stafford, the brother of Ralph, Earl of Stafford. He was a Knight of some repute at this period, for he had served in Gascony in 1356 with the Black Prince and was probably at Poitiers, for his letters of protection are dated the 15th March of that year and the battle was fought in the following September. In 1361-62 he was in Ireland in the retinue of Ralph, Earl of Stafford, who had been sent to suppress the insurrection of that year. In 1369 he was serving again with the Black Prince in Gascony, and was afterwards

¹ Original Manor Roll, at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

Sheriff of co. Stafford for the years 1378 to 1380. He married Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of Thomas Meverell, of Throwley, co. Stafford, and died in 1394.¹

Before his death, Sir Hugh had entailed his copyhold property in Tettenhall Regis on his relative Walter Wrottesley, who has been already named in the account of the life of Sir Hugh. This Walter I take to have been his nephew, for he seals with a shield of the Basset arms, and would not be entitled to use those arms except by descent from Roger Basset. He was, therefore, probably son of Roger, the younger brother of Sir Hugh. In 1370 he was serving in the retinue of Sir Robert Knolles in the famous expedition which traversed France from Calais to Gascony,² and three years later he served in the retinue of Thomas, Earl of Warwick, in the army commanded by John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster.³ A copy of the Court Roll of Tettenhall Regis of 6 Richard II, formerly at Wrottesley, states that at the Court held at Tettenhale, on the Thursday after the Feast of the Apostles Simon and Jude, 6 Richard II (30 October 1382), the jury presented that Hugh de Wrottesley, Chivaler, who held of the lord according to the custom of the manor, certain lands and tenements in fee tail, had died, and the land had been taken into the lord's hand. And they stated that Walter de Wrottesleye was the nearest heir of the said Hugh to the said lands and tenements by the said tail (*per talliam predictam*), and Walter appeared and claimed them by virtue of the said tail, and he had seisin of them according to the custom of the manor; and with respect to his relief and fine, if they were owing, a day was given to him. In testimony of which Thomas Stones, the Steward, appended his seal to the copy.

The parchment is endorsed—"At the above Court Walter Wrottesleye appeared and received from the lord a piece of land called le Mersshe, near the Newe Mulne in the Wergs, which had been previously in the lord's hand."

The history of this piece of land is a curious instance of the terrorism exercised over his neighbours by a successful soldier of this reign.

It first appears in the possession of Walter Wrottesley in 1361, for at Michaelmas term, 38 Edward III, Walter de Wrottesley sued Henry de Northale and Agnes, his wife, for breaking, *vi et armis*, into his close and houses at the Wergs on the Monday after the Feast of St. John the Baptist,

¹ Staffordshire Collections printed, vols. viii, xiv and xv.

² Rot. Francie, 44 Edward III, m. 8.

³ Retinue Roll, Army Miscellanea, Record Office.

35 Edward III, and carrying away his corn and timber and stones called Asshelters, and doing other damage to the extent altogether of £20. The defendants appeared by attorney and denied the trespass and injury, and appealed to a jury, and the Sheriff was ordered to summon a jury of the vicinage for the Octaves of St. Martin. No jury was empanelled in this case. A jury of the vicinage of Tettenhall was a jury of the vicinage of Sir Hugh de Wrotesley, and the latter had taken up the cause of his kinsman Walter. At the Michaelmas term in Banco of 35 Edward III, Hugh de Wrotesleye, Chivaler, sued Henry de Northale and Agnes, his wife, for taking, *vi et armis*, two fillies, ten oxen, four cows, and forty sheep belonging to him from the Wergs, and other goods and chattels belonging to him to the value of £20. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest and produce them on the Octaves of St. Hillary. A postscript shews that the Sheriff had made no return to this writ up to the Michaelmas term of the following year. At Easter term, 40 Edward III, *ie.*, nearly five years after the suit had been first commenced, the Sheriff returned into Court a sum of 20d., the proceeds of a distraint upon the goods and chattels of Henry and Agnes, but the defendants put in no appearance and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain again. At this date Henry and Agnes had left the Wergs and had taken up their abode at Chillington, for Henry is styled Henry de Northale, of Chillington, on the Roll. The story of their expulsion from the Wergs is told in a suit brought against Walter after the death of Sir Hugh, *viz.*, at Hillary term, 5 Richard II (January 1382), when Walter de Wrotesley, William Wyse, of Bylbrok, John le Wyse, of Bylbrok, and Walter le Dey were attached at the suit of Henry Northale, who stated that on Monday, the Feast of St. James the Apostle, 36 Edward III (25 July 1362), the defendants had broken into his close at Wythehes, *vi et armis*, armed with swords and bows and arrows, and had taken his infant from its cradle and thrown it upon a dungheap (*super sterculinum projecerunt*), and had carried off a horse, a cow and a calf and twelve pigs belonging to him to the value of ten marks, and had cut his growing corn and beans and peas, and taken timber from his house to the value altogether of £30, and had taken goods and chattels belonging to him, *viz.*, two furs (*pelves*), a basin (*lavatorium*), two brass dishes (*patellas*), three cups, three "mashfates," three pewter pots, and cloth and linen and woollen goods to the value of £40, and he produced his evidence. Walter and the other defendants appeared by attorney, and denied the trespass, and appealed to a jury. After several adjournments, through defects of juries, the case was eventually heard and determined

at Stafford on the Friday before the Feast of St. Matthew, 6 Richard II (September 1382), when a jury returned that Walter was guilty of the trespass complained of, with the exception of the taking of the cow and calf, and they assessed the plaintiff's damages at twenty marks, and they stated that the other defendants were not guilty. Henry was, therefore, to recover his damages from the said Walter, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest him.¹

The latest appearance of this Walter is in a deed formerly at Wrottesley, by which he conveyed a piece of land within the fee of Tettenhall, called le Smythesbruthe, to John Chaloner of the Wergs, and Joan, daughter of Walter, and to the heirs of their bodies, and failing such, to John, the son of Walter, and the heirs of his body, and failing such, to his own right heirs. This deed is dated on the Monday before the Feast of St. Mark, 10 Henry IV.²

Besides this John, Walter had two other sons, named William and Thomas. The first occurs as witness to a deed dated 4 Henry IV, with his father Walter,³ and in 10 Henry V (1423), Thomas, son of Walter Wrottesley, conveyed copyhold property in Tettenhall Regis to Walter Wyse.⁴

In 8 Henry V, John had fled the country, owing to an Indictment made against him for a felony. The Escheator's accounts for co. Stafford of that date shew that William Lee, the Escheator, had sold of the goods of John Wrottesley, who had fled (*se retraxit*), for divers felonies, eighteen bushels of barley, for which he had been paid 6s. 8d. by John Baker.

The deeds formerly at Wrottesley, which belong to the period abovenamed, 1381 to 1400, were as follows:—

Ceste endenture faite perentre labbe de Evesham dune part et Monsire Nichol de Stafford dautre part testmoigne que le dit Abbe ad graunte a dit Monsire Nichol la garde de touz les terres tenementz rentes et services, ensemblement ove corps des vileines et lors suites ove les aportinauntz quex Monsire Hugh de Wrottesleye e Isabelle sa femme tindrout de dit Abbe en Wrottesleye a aver e tener a dit Monsire Nichol ses executors et assignes tanqz a plein age Hugh fitz e heir de ditz Monsire Hugh et Isabelle e si le dit Hugh lefitz demi denz age que le dit (*some words illegible here*) le plein age des heirs (*some words illegible*) esteant les ditz Monsire Nichol ses

¹ De Banco, Hill., 5 Richard II, m. 174.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. The witnesses were John Wyse Henry Wyghtwyke and others.

³ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

⁴ Original copy of Court Roll at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

executours et assignes eiount la garde de touz terres, tenementz, rentes, services ove corps de vileins e lours suites avaunt ditz ove les aportinauntz tanqz a plein age de mesme le heir issint denz age esteant, e issint de heir en heir tanqz ascun des heirs avaunt ditz eit accompli son plein age, rendaut ent annuelment a dit abbe et ses successours tresse southz e quatre deners as deux termes del an cest assavoir as termes del annunciation notre dame et Seint Michel par one les portions duraunt le temps susdit e fesaunt e supportaunt a chefs seigneurs e as touz altres totes maneres rentes et autres charges quenques ent duwes duraunt mesme le temps. Et si la dite rente de tresse southz et quatre deners soit a derere en partie ou en tut as ascun des termes susditz, adonqz bien lise a dit Abbe et ses successours en touz les avaunt ditz terres, tenementz ove les apportinauntz distreindre e distresse detener tanqz gre soit fait de dite rente et des arrirages dycelles. En testmoignace de quele chose le dit Abbe a une partie de ceste Endentour as mys son seall, et le dit Monsire Nichol al autre partie de ceste endentour ad mis son seall. Done a Evesham le lundy posthem apres la feste de touz Seints lan du reigne le roi Richard secound puis le conquest quint. [4 November 1381.]¹

Memorandum quod ad Curiam de Tetenhale tentam ibidem die Jovis proximo post festum Apostolorum Simonis et Jude anno regni Regis Ricardi secundi sexto XII Juratores presentaverunt quod Hugo de Wrottesleye Chivaler qui tenuit de domino secundum consuetudinem manerii certas terras et tenementa cum pertinentiis in feodo talliato obiit et terra scisita fuit in manus domini per defectum tenentis. Et dicunt etiam quod Walterus de Wrottesleye est propinquior heres dicti Hugonis terrarum et tenementorum predictorum per talliam predictam, qui quidem Walterus venit et clamat habere terras et tenementa predicta per feoffamentum tallie predictae tenenda de domino secundum consuetudinem manerii per servicia inde debita et consueta, et habet inde seisinam per consuetudinem Curie, et de relevio seu de fine si de jure debeatur habet diem. In cujus rei testimonium huic copie Thomas Stones Seneschallus sigillum suum apposuit. Datum die, loco et anno supradictis.

Seal with a letter S on it.

Endorsed :—Memo : quod ad curiam infrascriptam Walterus Wrottesleye venit et cepit de domino unam placeam terre vocatam le Mersshe apud le Newemulne cum pertinentiis in Wythegis prius seisitam in manus domini . . (remainder illegible).²

Besides these deeds, there were formerly at Wrottesley the proceedings of several Manor Courts held during the same interregnum.

¹ Ancient copy on parchment at Wrottesley in handwriting of the fifteenth century.

² Original copy of Court Roll at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

At a "Magna Curia" of Wrottesley,¹ held on the Friday before the Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, 21 Richard II (October 1397), the Jury consisted of—

William Carte	Richard Grene
William Richardesson	John Hugyns
Thomas Addesson	John Fraunceys and
John Hoggeson	Thomas Jackesson.
John Grene	

Thomas, son of Adam Smyth, came into Court and received from the lord a cottage which Richard Hernys had held, to be held by him for a term of four years, and rendering for it 12d. and one day's reaping (*metendum*) in autumn, and he performed fealty (*fecit fidelitatem*) for it.

The following tenants were fined for permitting their cattle and pigs to stray on the lord's land.

Hugh Wyse	Adam Smyth
William Addesson	John Aungell
John Patyngham	John Grene
William Parker	John Fraunceys
Walter Wrottesley	Richard Brokhole and
William Tayllour	Adam de Northwode.

The jury presented that William Hykkeson had concealed 8s. of the rent of Tettenhall after the death of Isabella, the lady of Wrottesley, and that Edith, the daughter of William, had in her possession a brass pot, the heriot of William Reve.

William Parkere came into Court and received from the lord a cottage called Traunts place, with the land and pasture adjoining, which John Turner formerly held, as appeared by a deed of the lord in writing, to be held for five years, and he performed fealty for it.

Another Court was held on the Wednesday after the Feast of Holy Trinity, 21 Richard II (June 1398). The jury was the same as before, but with the addition of William Hykkeson, and the following tenants were fined for allowing their cattle and pigs to stray on the lord's land:—

John Walkere of Oken	Thomas Collettes
William of Oken	William Carte
William Parkere	William Holygrene
Thomas Addeson	Adam Deykyn
John Wyghtwyk	William del Wythegis (of the
John Fletcher	Wergs)

¹ No lord is named. They would be the executors or assigns of Elizabeth de Stafford.

John Perkys	Richard Cannee
Adam Northwode	Hugh Scheldon
William Yoman	John Scheldon
Richard Brokhill	Richard son of Robert Han-
Roger Robbes	cokes and
Henry Scheldon	Richard in the Hale.
Robert Thomen	

Another Court was held on the Thursday before the Feast of St. Andrew, 22 Richard II (November 1398). The jury was the same as before, with the exception that John del Leygh was substituted for John Fraunceys.

John Oxman came into Court and received from the lord a tenement which William Parker had held near the Lydeyate, rendering for it 13s. a year and performing the same services as the other tenants in Wrottesley.

Fines varying from 1d. to 8d. were imposed on tenants for allowing their cattle and pigs to stray on the lord's land; amongst these were William Gunston, *monachus de Oken*,¹ who is called elsewhere capellanus de Oken, Roger Russell, William son of Richard Cannee, and Roger Robards. Of these Thomas Jackesson, Richard Grene and Thomas Addesson were fined for allowing their cattle to stray in the "Cusyll," a local name which still exists.

The jury presented that William Parker owed suit, and had not appeared; that Thomas Lye, the lord's native, was dead, and after his death the lord had a pig worth 2s. and a brass pot according to the custom of the manor, and an ox as a heriot; and that John, his brother, because Richard, his son, was under age, had taken the tenement and land, to hold it according to the custom of the manor until the full age of the lord, and he performed fealty; and that John Fletcher, who had held a cottage of the lord, was dead, and after his death the lord had his mare as a heriot (*here follows a sentence difficult to decipher, by which it appeared that it was a question whether this was a proper heriot, but it was justified upon the practice prevalent during the time of Hugh de Wrottesley, Chivaler*).

Thomas Fletcher came into Court and received from the lord a cottage called Faucon's place, to be held until the full age of the lord, and he performed fealty for it.

A "Magna Curia" of Wrottesley was held on the Friday after the Feast of the Conception of the Blessed Mary, 2 Henry IV (December 1400). The roll of this Court names no lord. John de Wrottesley had in effect come of age in

¹ Oaken belonged to Crokesden Abbey, and one of the monks was probably acting as bailiff of the Abbot.

the previous September, but apparently had not proved his age and obtained seisin of the manor. The jury were:—

John Hugyns
John Fraunceys
John de Lyghe
William Carte
William Parker

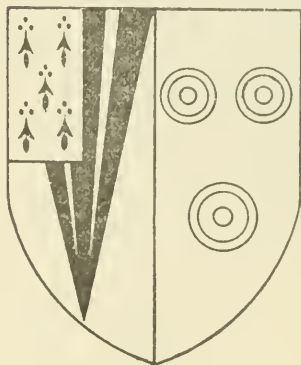
John Oxman
John de Grene
Thomas Jackeson
Thomas Adson and
Adam Smyth,

who presented that John de Grene, the younger, the lord's native, had left his home without the lord's permission; that Thomas Jackesson had wrongfully sold a pasture to a stranger against the custom of the manor; that William Parker had wrongfully appropriated a pasture which was common to the tenants; that Thomas Jackesson had wrongfully fished a marl pit (*marlera*) of the lord and taken fish to the value of 1d., and that the house of the said Thomas was in a ruinous state. William Parker was fined 12d. and Thomas was fined 6d., and was ordered to repair his house before the feast of Pentecost, under a penalty of 6d.

On the complaint of the Bailiff of the manor, several tenants were fined for permitting their cattle to stray on the lord's land.

Thomas Addeson and Thomas Jackesson were elected Provosts and sworn in. John Lyghe was elected Constable, and John Hugyns and John Grene were elected tasters of beer (*tastatores*) and sworn in.

JOHN DE WROTTESLEY, A.D. 1400 TO A.D. 1402.



According to the Inquisition on his mother's death, John de Wrottesley came of age on the 29th September 1400. He is shown to be son of Sir Hugh by this Inquisition, by another Inquisition on his own death, by two writs on the Chester Recognizance Roll¹ of 3-4 Henry IV, and by a suit on the Chester Plea Roll of 10 Henry IV. He had been married to his wife, Elizabeth Standish, when six years of age, and his eldest son Hugh was born just a fortnight before John attained his majority.

His first Manor Court was held on the Feast of the Con-

¹ Chester Recognizance Roll, 3-4 Henry IV, m. 4 dorso.

ception, 3 Henry IV (8 December 1401), and is headed *Curia magna Recognitionis Johannis Wrottesley tenta ibidem die Jovis in festo Conceptionis Beate Marie anno regni regis Henrici quarti post conquestum tertio*.¹

The jury consisted of:—

John Huggyns	John Grene
William Carte	Thomas Jackesson
Thomas Addesson	John othe Lye and
John Fraunceys	William Grene

all of whom performed fealty and acknowledged their tenancies. In addition to these there was one female tenant, Joan Huggyns.

The term virgate of land no longer occurs on the Roll, nor does it specify in direct terms whether the tenures were free or servile. The acknowledgments of the tenants were simply to the effect that they held a messuage and a parcel of land of the lord for a money rent specified. These rents varied from 16s. to 26s.

The jury presented that John Grene and Richard Grene, the sons of Richard Grene, the lord's native, had left the manor without the lord's leave, and that Agnes Wyse, the lord's native, had also left in the same way, that Edith the daughter of William Hykesson, the lord's native (*nativa domini*), had married one Thomas More at Wolverhampton without the lord's permission, and that Agnes, another daughter of the said William, the lord's native, had married William Patyngham without the lord's leave, and had left the manor, and that Agnes, the daughter of John Grene, the lord's native, had married Adam Smyth in the time of Elizabeth de Stafford, without the lord's permission.

The Bailiff of the manor then made upwards of ninety presentments against the tenants and others for trespasses upon the lord's demesne, and fines were inflicted in each case, varying from 2d. to 4d. The trespasses in most cases were for allowing cattle and pigs to stray on the lord's wheat, barley, peas, and grass. After these presentments had been dealt with, Thomas Jackesson complained that Adam Smyth had destroyed his oats at the Wallesende with his cattle, and committed damage to the extent of 40d. Adam was present in Court and confessed to the fact, but demurred to the extent of the damage, and asked that it might be taxed by the Court.

The same Thomas further complained that Adam had set his dog upon his sow, and had caused her to cast her

¹ Original Court Roll at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. All these Manor Rolls were written in Latin and on parchment.

pigs, for which he claimed 40d. as damages. Adam admitted this also, but demurred to the amount of damage, and asked that it might be taxed by the Court, and the damage was taxed at 20d.

Thomas Addeesson and John Lye were elected Provosts of the manor, and the said Thomas was sworn in.

John del Lye was elected Constable and sworn in.

John Grene and John Huggyns were elected tasters of beer, and were sworn in.

These proceedings show that Sir Nicholas de Stafford had died during the minority of John, and that his wife, Elizabeth, had succeeded him as lady of the manor.¹

On the 23rd December 1401, John de Wrottesley enfeoffed John Wyghtwyk, chaplain, and John Wyse in the manor of Wrottesley, and three days afterwards the same feoffees conveyed the manor to John and his wife, Elizabeth, and to the heirs of the body of John, and failing such to the right heirs of John.² In the following February he was at Butterton on the Moors, and by a deed dated from that place on the Monday before the Purification, 3 Henry IV, he enfeoffed Walter Wyse of Bilderbrok and William Rugge in the manor of Boterdone, and the same trustees on the following Saturday conveyed the manor to John and his wife Elizabeth, with remainders as in the deed of the 26th December.

It has been shewn that Elizabeth de Stafford had held the custody of the manor as assignee of Sir Nicholas after the death of the latter, which took place in 1394. Elizabeth was heiress of the Meverells of Throwley, and would naturally take more interest in her own inheritance than in a manor she held only for a term, and there is reason to believe from the Bailiff's account of the estate on the Manor Roll of 1401 that John must have found his property in a very dilapidated state when he came of age in the previous year. He would be prone to associate this state of things with the appropriation of the manor by the Abbot as a military fee, and the grant of it to Sir Nicholas de Stafford, and by way of indemnifying himself, he now revived the claim of a socage tenure. At Easter term, 3 Henry IV, he was suing the Abbot to render a reasonable account of the issues of lands and tenements in Wrottesley which were held in socage, and of which the Abbot had held the custody when he was under age and in ward to

¹ Sir Nicholas de Stafford died in 1394. See vol. xv, Staff. Collections, p. 64

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

him. The Abbot did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to attach him for the Quindene of Holy Trinity. A post-script states that on that date the Sheriff made no return to the writ, and he was ordered to attach the Abbot for the Quindene of St. Michael (13 October 1405).¹ Before this latter date John had died, and we thus lose the record of what probably would have been a very interesting suit.

The latest act of John of which there is any record is a deed of manumission of a female villein or native of his manor. How this deed came to be preserved amongst the Wrottesley muniments is difficult to explain, but it may be assumed perhaps that Dionisia or Denise, as she would be called, was the nurse of John, and had died in the service of the family. As deeds of manumission are very rare, I give it here in full.

Noverint omnes Christiani fideles quod ego Johannes dominus de Wrotesley, manumisi et liberam feci Dionisiam filiam Johannis Hugyns de Wrotesley cum tota sequela sua procreata seu procreanda et cum omnibus bonis et catallis suis. Ita vero quod nec ego dictus Johannes nec credes (*sic*) mei aliquam proprietatem seu calumniam in corpore ipsius Dionisie nec in tota sequela sua procreata seu procreanda, nec in omnibus bonis et catallis suis decetero exigere poterimus in futuro vel vindicare set ipsam Dionisiam cum supradictis sequela et bonis ab omni ordine servitutis et wayvituris penitus acquieto et relaxo in perpetuum per presentes. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus sigillum meum apposui. Datum apud Wrotesley die lune proximo ante festum Sancti Laurencii anno regni regis Henrici quarti post conquestum tertio. [7 August 1402.]²

In this year, viz., 1402, Owen Glendower ravaged the marches with a large force of Welshmen, and defeated and took prisoner Sir Edmund Mortimer on the 22nd June. The Scots also invaded England on the north, but were defeated by Sir Henry Percy at Homildon Hill, on the 14th September.

In the autumn of the year the King, with the view of crushing the rebellion of Owen Glendower, raised a large force from the Midland Counties and invaded Wales from three different points. On the 31st July writs were issued to the Sheriffs of the Midland Counties to summon all men-at-arms and archers within their Bailiwicks to meet the King at Shrewsbury, all the Knights and Esquires, archers, and other *homines defensabiles* to furnish themselves with horses and arms according to their status, and to be at Shrewsbury on the 27th August to proceed with the King

¹ De Banco Easter, 3 Henry IV, m. 142, dorso.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

into Wales. By other writs the array of counties Nottingham, Leicester, Northampton, Bucks, Lincoln, Cambridge, Hunts, and the Palatinate of Lancaster were to assemble at Shrewsbury. The array of counties Gloucester, Hereford, Worcester, Warwick, Stafford, Somerset and Bristol was to be mustered at Hereford under the Earls of Stafford and Arundel and the Lords Grey, Audley, Bergavenny and Berkeley on the 29th August. The array of counties Derby and Salop to be mustered at Chester under Henry, Prince of Wales, on the same date.

The King's project was defeated by the inclemency of the weather; torrents of rain fell, the Welsh valleys were flooded, the streams became impassable, and even the King's tent was carried away in a storm of rain and wind. It was the year when, in the words of Shakespear, Merlin "called spirits from the vasty deep," and made the elements subservient to the cause of his countrymen.

Assuming that John de Wrottesley could not have avoided the general summons, the hardships of the campaign appear to have proved fatal to him, for he died on the 7th of September. At this date he was little over twenty-two years of age.¹

The writ of "*diem clausit extremum*" was issued by Henry, Prince of Wales, on the 13th October 4 Henry IV (1402), and the Inquisition took place at Kelsale on the 26th October. The jury stated that John, son of Hugh de Wrottesley, Kt., who was named in the writ, died seised in demesne as of fee of two parts of a messuage and thirty acres of land in Buddeworth in le Fryth, which were held of the lord of Chester by military service, and were worth annually 17s. 10d. He was also seised in the same way when he died of a toft and five acres of land in Tyresford, which were held of St. John of Jerusalem by a service of 12d. and were worth 6s. annually, and of two parts of a messuage and ten acres of land in Kelsale, which were held of John de Kyngesley by a service of 7d. and worth 5s. 4d.

And that the said John died on the Sunday the Vigil of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary last past (7th September 1402), and that Hugh, his son, was his nearest heir, and was two years of age on the Friday the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the same year (14th September 1402).²

¹ I have assumed that he was in the expedition, for there was a general levy of men-at-arms from Staffordshire, and he could hardly have been absent on such an occasion, when the King took the field in person.

² Inquisitions p.m., Cheshire. There is some error in these dates, for the Vigil of the Nativity of the Virgin would have fallen on a Friday in 1402. The second date is the day on which the battle of Homildon was fought, and it

The following deeds, formerly at Wrottesley, belong to the above epoch 1400—1402.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes de Wrottesley dedi, concessi, et hac presenti mea carta confirmavi Johanni Wythwyk capellano et Johanni Wyse manerium de Wrottesley cum pertinentiis, habendum et tenendum predictum manerium cum pertinentiis predictis Johanni Wythwyk capellano et Johanni Wyse heredibus et assignatis suis in perpetuum de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per servitia inde debita et de jure consueta. Et ego vero etc. (*clause of warranty*). In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Hugone Mortimer milite, Egidio del huyde, Johanne de Swynnorton, Johanne Hampton, Edmundo del lowe, Rogero Waryng, Johanne Codeshale et aliis. Data apud Wrottesley die veneris proximo post festum Sancti Thome Apostolici anno regni regis Henrici quarti post Conquestum Anglie tertio.¹ (23 December 1401.)

Seal destroyed.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod nos Johannes Wyghtwyk capellanus et Johannes Wys dedimus, concessimus et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus Johanni de Wrottesley et Elizabeth uxori ejus et heredibus predicti Johannis de Wrottesley de corpore suo legitime procreatis, manerium de Wrottesley cum pertinentiis suis, habendum et tenendum predictum manerium cum pertinentiis suis predictis Johanni de Wrottesley et Elizabeth uxori ejus et heredibus de corpore predicti Johannis de Wrottesley legitime procreatis de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per servitia inde debita et de jure consueta. Et si contingat quod predictus Johannes de Wrottesley obierit sine heredibus de corpore suo legitime procreatis, tunc volumus et concedimus quod predictum manerium cum pertinentiis remaneat rectis heredibus predicti Johannis de Wrottesley in perpetuum. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigilla nostra apposuimus. Hiis testibus Hugone Mortymer milite, Egidio del huyde, Johanne Swynnorton, Johanne Hampton, Edmundo de lowe, Rogero Waryng, Johanne Codeshale et aliis. Data apud Wrottesley die Lune proximo post festum natale domini anno regni regis Henrici quarti post conquestum Anglie tertio. [26 December 1401.]¹

Seals destroyed.

has sometimes struck the writer whether the jury may not have confused the two dates, and that John may have fallen at Homildon. Hotspur, who was Justice of Chester, was considered the mirror of chivalry; and many of the young nobility of Chester were serving under his banner, amongst these were Robert de Legh of Adlington, and Sir John Arderne, the cousins of John de Wrottesley.

¹ Original deeds at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. Sir Hugh Mortimer, the first witness of these deeds, was son of Sir Henry Mortimer, of Chelmarsh, the first husband of Elizabeth ap Rys, the sister of Mabel, formerly wife of Sir Hugh de Wrottesley. He was killed at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, fighting on the side of the King.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes de Wrottesley dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Waltero Wyse de Bilderbrok et Willelmo Rugge manerium de Boterdone cum omnibus pertinentiis suis. Habendum et tenendum predictum manerium cum omnibus pertinentiis suis predictis Waltero et Willelmo, heredibus et assignatis suis libere, quiete, bene, et in pace in perpetuum de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta. Et ego vero, etc. (*clause of warranty*). In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus, Johanne Cogan milite, Thoma Marchinton, Thoma Okore, Johanne Pole, Thoma Schene, et aliis. Datum apud Boterdone die Lune proximo ante festum Purificationis beate Marie virginis anno regni Regis Henrici quarti post conquestum tertio.¹ [30 January 1402.]

Sciant presentes et futuri quod nos Walterus Wyse de Bilderbrok et Willelmus Rugge concessimus et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus Johanni de Wrottesleye et Elizabeth uxori ejus et heredibus de corpore predicti Johannis legitime procreatis manerium de Boterdone cum omnibus pertinentiis suis quod nuper tenuimus ex dono et feoffamento predicti Johannis. Habendum et tenendum predictum manerium cum omnibus pertinentiis suis predicto Johanni et Elizabeth uxori ejus et heredibus de corpore predicti Johannis legitime procreatis de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta. Et si contingat quod predictus Johannes obierit sine heredibus de corpore suo legitime procreatis, tunc volumus et concedimus quod predictum manerium cum omnibus pertinentiis suis remaneat rectis heredibus predicti Johannis in perpetuum. Tenendum de predictis capitalibus dominis per servicia predicta. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigilla nostra apposimus. Hiis testibus Johanne Cogan milite, Thoma Marchinton, Thoma Okore, Johanne Pole, Thoma Schene et aliis. Datum apud Boterdone die Sabati proximo post festum Purificationis Beate Marie anno regni regis Henrici quarti post conquestum Anglie tertio. [4 February 1402.]²

ARMS OF JOHN DE WROTTESELEY.

On the dexter side—Or, three piles Sable, a quarter Ermine, for Wrottesley.

On the sinister side—Sable, three standishes Argent, for Standish.

Giles del Huyde was a relict of the reign of Edward III, who had served as an Esquire in the wars in France. He was tenant of the Hyde, near Chillington. In 43 Edward III he was serving in Gascony in the suite of John de Cherleton, the lord of Powis. In 4 Richard II he was serving in France in the retinue of the Earl of Stafford (Staffordshire Collections, vols. viii and xiv).

John de Swynnerton was lord of Hilton, co. Stafford, and Chief Forester of Canock.

John Hampton was lord of Stourton Castle and Chief Forester of Kinver.

Edmund del Lowe was lord of Whittington.

¹ From transcripts of Butterton deeds formerly at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² From copies of Butterton deeds at Wrottesley, 1860-62. The last two deeds,

INTERREGNUM, 1402 to 1421.

Under the feudal law, all estates of tenants in capite became subject to the liabilities of a tenure in capite under whatever lord they might have been held; but the manors of Wrottesley and Butterson had providentially been settled, by the deeds of 1401 and 1402 on Elizabeth, the widow of John de Wrottesley, and she was entitled to hold them for her life. The custody and marriage of the heir, however, fell to Henry, Prince of Wales, as Earl of Chester, by reason of the small estate held in capite in Cheshire, and on the 26th of April 4 Henry IV (1403) the Prince, with the assent of his council, granted to Robert de Standish, Kt., the custody of all the lands, tenements, rents and services which formerly belonged to John, son of Hugh de Wrottesley, Kt. (*militis*), in co. Chester, and which, by reason of the death of John and the minority of Hugh, son and heir of the said John, had come into his hands, together with the marriage of the said Hugh without disparagement, to be held by him till the lawful age of the said Hugh, son of John, and if the said Hugh should die within age, leaving an heir within age, he conceded that the said Robert should have the custody of all the said lands, etc., until any heir of the said Hugh, son of John, should arrive at full age. For which concession the said Robert was to pay £20 within four years and to find competent maintenance for the said heirs and undertake all charges and services incumbent on the lands, and saving to Elizabeth, formerly wife of John, her reasonable dower out of the same lands.¹

A few days before the date of this grant, viz., on the 20th April, the Prince had issued a mandate to Richard de Manley, the Escheator of co. Chester, to assign dower to Elizabeth, formerly wife of John, son of Hugh de Wrottesley, Kt., out of the lands which the said John had held of the Earl in capite in co. Chester, the said Elizabeth giving security that she would not remarry without the Earl's assent.²

Within little more than three months from this date, Elizabeth had married Sir William le Boteler, of Warrington, co. Lancaster, for the Manor Rolls at Wrottesley describe Sir William as lord of Wrottesley, at a Court held on the Wednesday after the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. This

being dated from Butterson, are witnessed by Knights and Esquires of North Staffordshire or Derbyshire. Sir John Cogan, the first witness, is without doubt Sir John Cokeyne, the contemporary lord of Ashbourne, co. Derby, who held land also on the moors of Staffordshire. Thomas Marchington was lord of Caverswall. Thomas Okore was lord of Okeover. John Pole was lord of Hartington, co. Derby, and of Newburgh, co. Stafford.

¹ Chester Recognizance Roll, 3-4 Henry IV, m. 5.

² Recognizance Roll, co. Chester, 3-4 Henry IV, m. 5.

would be the 27th June 1403.¹ Elizabeth had, therefore, married a second husband as soon as nine months had elapsed after her first husband's death. Sir William le Boteler had succeeded his father John in 1400,² and at the date of his marriage with Elizabeth, was a widower with an infant son, a few weeks old.³ That a widower should re-marry three months after his wife's death, and a widow do the same nine months after her late husband's death is quite in accordance with the manners and customs of the day.

Five years after this date, and when Hugh Wrottesley was nine years of age, an event occurred which materially affected his interests. Sir John Arderne, of Aldford, died in 9 Henry IV, leaving an only daughter, and under the settlement made of the Arderne estates in 21 Edward III, these should now have devolved on the issue of Robert de Legh and Hugh de Wrottesley as right heirs of Sir John Arderne and Elena, who had died in 1349.

The Inquisition on the death of Sir John Arderne was taken at Chester on the 18 June, 9 Henry IV (1408), on the oath of three Knights and nine Esquires of co. Chester, who stated that a certain Robert de Hampton, late Parson of the church of Alderley, and John, son of Roger de Motlowe, were formerly seised in demesne as of fee of the manors of Aldeford, Alderley, and Echeles, and of the advowsons of the churches of Aldeford and Alderley, and of an annual rent of £10 from the manor of Upton in Wyrehale, and had granted the same to John de Ardene and Elena, his wife, for their lives, with remainder to one Thomas, the son of Elena, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such, to Walkeline, the brother of Thomas and the heirs male of his body, and failing such, to the right heirs of John de Ardene and Elena, and failing such, to the right heirs of John de Ardene for ever. And John de Ardene and Elena had issue lawfully begotten Matilda and Isabella, and John and Elena had died without leaving any male issue lawfully begotten, and after the death of John de Ardene and Elena, the abovenamed Thomas had entered into the said manors, advowsons and rent in virtue of the remainder, and he had issue John de Ardene, Knight; and Thomas died, seised in demesne as of fee tail of the said manors, advowsons and rent, and after his death, they descended to the said John, son of Thomas, who had entered, and had died seised of them, as of fee tail, and had left no male heir; and they stated that Robert de Legh,

¹ Court Rolls at Wrottesley.

² Duchy of Lancaster Records printed, Rolls Series, 1872.

³ *Ibid.* His son John proved his age in March 1424.

the son of Robert de Legh, married the said Matilda, and they had issue Robert de Legh, Kt., which Robert de Legh, Kt., had issue Robert de Legh, who was now surviving; and Matilda had died, and Robert de Legh, son of the said Robert and Matilda, had died *inde seisitus*.¹ And they stated also that one Hugh de Wrotteslegh, Knight, had married the above named Isabella, and they had issue one John de Wrotteslegh, and John had issue Hugh de Wrotteslegh, who was now surviving. And Hugh the elder and his wife, Isabella, had died, and John, their son, had likewise died, and therefore the right to the said manors, advowsons and rent, after the death of the said John, son of Thomas (de Ardene) should remain to the said Robert, son of Robert de Legh, Kt., as son and heir of the said Robert de Legh, Kt., son and heir of the said Matilda, daughter and one of the heirs of John de Ardene and Elena, and to the said Hugh, son and heir of the said John, son and heir of Hugh, the son and heir of the said Isabella, the other daughter and heir of John de Ardene and Elena.

And they stated that the manor of Echells was held of the Lord Lestraunge, as of his manor of Dunham Massy, by military service, and was worth £50 a year, and that the manor of Aldeford was held of the Prince, as Earl of Chester, in capite by military service, and was worth £40 a year, and the manor of Aldelegh was held of the Prince, as Earl of Chester, in capite by military service, and was worth £10 a year, and that the manor of Upton, from which the rent proceeded, was held of the Prince, as Earl of Chester, in capite by military service; and that the said John de Ardene, Kt., had died on the Monday before the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul last past, and that the said Robert de Legh was forty years of age and upwards, and the said Hugh was eight years of age.²

On the return of this Inquisition into the Chancery at Chester, the usual course would have been to issue a writ to the Escheator, to make a partition of the lands, and to give seisin of a moiety of them to Robert de Legh, whilst the other moiety would have been taken into the hands of the Prince, as Earl of Chester and superior lord, saving in both cases the dower of the widow of Sir John; but Margaret, the widow of Sir John Arderne, now came forward

¹ Sir Robert de Legh survived Sir John de Arderne, and had taken possession of the manors. The Inquisition taken on his death in 9 Henry IV states he died seised of the manors of Alderley, Upton and Adlington held in capite of the Earl, and of the manor of Echells held of Lord Strange as of his manor of Dunham Masey.

² Chester Inquisitions. A portion of the Inquisition has been destroyed by damp, and has been supplied from the Plea of 10 Henry IV which follows.

and claimed to hold the whole estate for her life, under a settlement made by her husband, and the matter was brought before the Palatine Court by the Chamberlain of Chester.

The Chester Pleas of 10 Henry IV, state that Thomas Barneby, the Chamberlain of Chester, produced in Court an Inquisition which had been taken before Richard de Manley, the Escheator, and which was in these words (here follows the Inquisition as given above).

And Margaret, late wife of the said John, son of Thomas de Ardene, Kt., appeared by attorney, and denied that the said Robert de Hampton and John, son of Roger, had been seised of the manors, advowsons and rent, and had conveyed them as shewn in the Inquisition; and she stated that the said John, son of Thomas (de Arderne), had been seised of the manors and advowsons of Aldeford and Alderlegh, and had granted them to John Pygot, Peter de Bulkelegh of Chedle, William del Holt the elder, Hugh de Bostok, Roger de Pylkyngton, Knight, John de Pylkyngton, Knight, John de Dalton, Knight, Thomas Gerard, Knight, Laurence de Standysse, of co. Lancaster, Thomas de Gresley, of co. Derby, Knight, Thomas de Aston, Knight, and ten others named, and to their heirs (the license of the Prince, as Earl of Chester, having been first obtained), and the said John, Peter, William and the others named, by their deed, which she produced in Court, and which was dated from Aldeford on the Monday after the Assumption of the Blessed Mary, 7 Henry IV., had granted them to the said John, son of Thomas (de Arderne), and to Margaret, his wife, and to the heirs of their bodies; by virtue of which grant the said John, son of Thomas, and Margaret were seised of the said manors and advowsons, during the lifetime of John, son of Thomas. And John, son of Thomas, afterwards died, and she had continued her status in the manors by virtue of the above grant, and therefore John, son of Thomas, had not died sole seised of them, as stated in the Inquisition, and she asked that the Prince, as Earl of Chester, might remove his hand, and that she might have restitution of them.

And as regarded the manor of Echeles, she denied that the said Robert (de Hampton), and John, son of Roger, had been seised of it and had granted it to John de Arderne, and Elena his wife, as shewn in the Inquisition, and she stated that a Fine had been levied in full county of Chester, on the Tuesday before the Feast of Pentecost, 22 Richard II, between the said John, son of Thomas (de Arderne), and Margaret, his wife, complainants, and Nicholas de Prestwich, chaplain, deforciant, of the manor of Echeles, by which it had been settled on John and Margaret, and the heirs of their bodies, and by virtue of which Fine, they had been

seised of the manor, during the lifetime of John, and after John had died she had continued her status in the said manor, until removed by the above Inquisition, and she asked therefore, that the Prince should remove his hand, and that she might have restitution of it.

The Prince's attorney denied the allegations of Margaret, and appealed to a jury, which was to be summoned for the Tuesday after the close of Easter, on which day a jury found in favour of Margaret on all the issues, and stated that the rent of £10 proceeding from the manor of Upton had always been part of the manor of Aldford. It was therefore considered that the Prince should remove his hand and that Margaret should have restitution of the said manors and advowsons and rent, with all issues and profits from them from the date of her removal.

This judgment left the Arderne estates in the illegitimate descendants of Sir John de Arderne, who died in 23 Edward III. John de Arderne, the husband of Margaret, the plaintiff in the above suit, left an only daughter and heiress, Matilda, who married Thomas de Stanley. There appears, however, to have been an appeal from this judgment and a compromise, for the Inquisition on Robert de Legh, who died in 3 Henry V, states he was seised of an annual rent of £10, granted to him and his heirs by Thomas de Stanley, to be received from the manor of Alderley. Later generations of the Leghs, however, did not acquiesce in this compromise, and the endeavours of the Leghs and Wrottesleys to recover the Arderne estates are recorded at intervals on the Cheshire Plea Rolls for more than a hundred years after this date.

On the re-marriage of Elizabeth, widow of John de Wrottesley, she appears to have put in a tenant at Wrottesley. A presentment, returned into the Court of King's Bench in 2 Henry V, states that Thomas Lynhales and three others named had feloniously killed Roger Kyng, of Wolverhampton, in 13 Henry IV, and that Ralph Chernok had knowingly received them afterwards at Wrottesley.¹ Ralph Chynok, armiger, of Wrottesley, is named in a Wrottesley deed of 9 Henry V.

Henry V succeeded to the throne in March 1413, and in the following year he demanded the throne of France as heir of Isabella, the daughter of Philip IV. In August 1415 he sailed from Southampton with a force of about 6000 men-at-arms and 24000 archers, and invested Harfleur, at the mouth of the Seine. Harfleur surrendered on the 26th of September, but its reduction had been purchased by the

¹ Staffordshire Collections, Vol. xvii, p. 23-24.

sacrifice of nearly half the English army, which perished from the ravages of dysentery as well as the casualties of the siege. Amongst the victims was Sir William le Boteller, who died before Harfleur whilst in command of the Lancashire levies.¹

Elizabeth was left a well endowed widow, for in addition to the Wrottesley estates, which she held for life, she would now obtain a considerable dower from the Warrington property. Under such circumstances she would not remain long a widow in the fifteenth century; and by a writ of the 26th October, 4 Henry V (1416), the Escheator of co. Lancaster was ordered to assign to Sir William de Ferrers, of Groby, who had married Elizabeth, late wife of Sir William Botiller, Kt., reasonable dower for the said Elizabeth out of her late husband's lands, the said William de Ferrers having given a bond for payment of the Fine to be imposed upon her for marrying without the King's license.²

Sir William de Ferrers, the Baron of Groby, the third husband of Elizabeth, had succeeded his father, Henry, in 1388, at which date he was fifteen years of age; he would be, therefore, forty-three when he married Elizabeth. Assuming that the latter was nearly of the same age as her first husband, John de Wrottesley, she would be about thirty-five at the same date. William was lord of Tettenhall Regis and the Wergs, a manor adjoining Wrottesley, and a portion of the Wrottesley property was held of him as overlord.³

Amongst the Army Miscellanea of the Exchequer is an account of the wages due to Sir William le Botiller for his service in France in 1415. It is headed "*Compotus Willelmi Boteller Chivaler defuncti, Willelmi Ferrers de Groby Chivaler, et Elizabeth uxoris ejus tenentium terrarum et tenementorum que fuerunt predicti Willelmi Boteller defuncti*," dated the Morrow of All Souls, 6 Henry V. The accounts commence by quoting an Indenture, dated 29 April 3 Henry V, by which Sir William Boteller engaged to serve

¹ Nicholas' "Agincourt" and Army Accounts *infra*. A writ, dated 16 June 3 Henry V, directed 500 archers of Lancashire to be mustered at Warrington on the Wednesday after the Feast of St. John the Baptist, to accompany the King on his expedition to foreign parts. And on the 1 March following, Elizabeth, late wife of Sir William le Botiller, and William Couper, executors of the will of Sir William, gave half a mark for a writ "de debito." (Duchy of Lancaster Records, printed.)

² Duchy of Lancaster Records, printed, Rolls Series.

³ Elizabeth had two sons by her third husband, for by a Fine, levied in 10 Henry V, the manor and advowson of Lutterworth were settled on William de Ferrers and Elizabeth, his wife, and the heirs male of the body of William, and failing such on Thomas de Ferrers, son of William and Elizabeth, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such on John de Ferrers, the brother of Thomas, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such on the right heirs of William. (Leicester Fines.)

the King for a year in person in the Duchy of Guienne or other parts of France, with ten men-at-arms and thirty mounted archers, for which he was to be paid 2s. a day for himself and 12d. for each man-at-arms, with certain provisions respecting the profits to be obtained from prisoners, by which it appeared that all prisoners above a certain rank were to be handed over to the King.

His pay commenced from the 8th July, 3 Henry V, when his retinue was reviewed at Southampton and taken over by the King, and ceased on the following 6th October, which must be the date of his death. An advance had been made to him on the 6th June of £84 11s. 3d., and another on the 6th July of £55 19s. 2d., as specified on the Memoranda Roll of the Pell of those terms. The names of the men-at-arms and archers are given in the accounts, but they are all names of Lancashire men. The first name on the list of Esquires was that of William de Assheton, who is mentioned in the next paragraph.

On the marriage of his mother with William de Ferrers, Hugh Wrottesley must have taken up his abode at Groby, for in 7 Henry V he was prosecuted by the Crown for a trespass committed in the royal forests in Leicestershire, in company with William de Ferrers, and William de Assheton. The De Banco Roll of Trinity term, 7 Henry V, states that William de Ferrars, of Groby, Chivaler, was attached at the suit of the King, for breaking into the King's park at Defford, on the Monday after the Feast of St. Thomas the Martyr, 6 Henry V (December 1418), together with William Assheton, of Crofton, co. Lancaster, Hugh Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, co. Stafford, and many other malefactors, armed with swords and bows and arrows, and chasing his wild animals, and killing a buck and a "hymmlun." The Baron appeared by attorney and denied the trespass, and appealed to a jury, which was to be summoned for the Octave of St. Michael.¹

By another writ, the King's attorney sued William Assheton and Hugh Wrottesley for the same trespass. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest and produce them on the above date.²

By a third writ, William de Ferrers was attached, at the suit of the King, for breaking into the King's close, and houses and park at Leicester, on the Sunday before the Feast of St. Margaret, 6 Henry V, together with the said William Assheton and Hugh Wrottesley, and taking the

¹ De Banco, Trinity, 7 Henry 5, m. 293.

² Ibid.

King's goods and chattels, viz., doors and windows and locks, and bows and arrows to the value of £20, and a buck and a doe from the park, and for beating, wounding and ill-treating the King's servant, John Base, so that his life was despaired of, and the King lost his services for a fourth part of a year. William de Ferrers appeared by attorney, the other defendants put in no appearance, and the Sheriff was ordered as in the other suits.¹

No further notice of these suits occurs on the Rolls. Hugh Wrottesley had been summoned to serve the King for the defence of the realm, and was probably in Normandy when the case again came before the Court.

In 7 Henry V (1419-20), Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester, who was Custos of the Kingdom during the King's absence in France, issued precepts to the Sheriffs of English Counties, commanding them to elect a certain number in each Shire of Knights and Esquires bearing arms from their ancestors of such as were most able and sufficient to serve the King in their own persons with lances, etc., for the defence of the realm, all of whom were to be at Westminster on the Tuesday in the first week of Lent.

The return for co. Stafford was made by Humphrey Halghton, the Sheriff, Sir Richard Vernon, Sir John Bagot, Richard Lane and William Lee, Justices of the Peace, and they returned the following names:—²

Thomas Griffiths
Thomas Stanley
Hugh Erdeswick
Richard Harecourt
Hugh Wrottesley
Thomas Astley
Thomas Giffard
Edmund Basset
John Meverel
James Thyknes

Nicholas Ruggeley
Thomas Okeore
Roger Wyrley
William Boydel
William Egerton
John Salewey
Nicholas Waring
John Draicote, and
Robert Kynardesley.

The form, "*to serve the King for the defence of the realm*," was used in all writs of military summons, and involved service abroad, or wherever the King might be. The King, at this date, was engaged in the reduction of Normandy. Rouen had fallen in 1419, and the operations of the campaign of 1420 included the reduction of Sens, Montereau, and Melun. At the approach of winter, the King, who had married in the meanwhile Catherine of France, made a

¹ Ibid., m. 293 dorso.

² Dugdale's Collections.

triumphant entry into Paris. In the following year Hugh Wroottesley completed his twenty-first year.

No deeds were preserved at Wroottesley of the period of this interregnum, excepting one mentioned at p. 195. Amongst the Court Rolls, however, there is the record of a "Magna Curia" of Wroottesley, which was held on the Friday before the Feast of Pentecost, 4 Henry IV (November 1402). The jury consisted of:—

William Carte	John Lye
John Oxemon	Thomas Addeson
Thomas Jackesson (1)	Thomas Jackesson (2), and
John Hugyns	William Grene.

As was usual on the occasion of a minority, the tenants had allowed their cattle to roam over all the lord's land, and on the complaint of the Bailiff, the following were fined for permitting their cattle and pigs to stray:—

Henry Fleemyng	John Hamond
Adam Smyth	Richard in le Hale
Alice Grene	Henry Scheldon
John Scheldon	Adam Northwode
John Grene	William Northwode
John Lye	John Brochole
John Fraunceys	Richard Maggesson
John Moye	John Angels
Richard Whyte	Thomas Addeson
Henry atte Yate	William Grene
Richard Hendesson	Idonea de Wroottesleye
John Hugyns	Joan Hugyns
William Carte	William Grene, and
Richard Croncwall	John Clerk.

The fines varied from 1d. to 4d. John Hugyns was elected Provost, John Oxemon was elected Constable, and John Grene and John Huggyns *tastatores*, and they were all sworn in.

The entry respecting Idonea is interesting, as she must have been the Idonia, sister of Sir Hugh de Wroottesley, K.G., who is named in the deed of 1334. At this date she would be about eighty-four years of age. She had passed unscathed through the three great Pestilences of the fourteenth century, and it is curious to reflect what vicissitudes of England's fortune she must have witnessed between the date of the Battle of Halidon Hill of 1333 and that of Shrewsbury, fought in 1403. The original entry is as follows:—*Idonea de Wroottesley attachiata fuit cum averiis in le Furlong in frumento domini*. The name of the Furlong still exists, but the land is now a pasture.

On the marriage of Elizabeth with Sir William le Boteler, a Court Baron was held in the name of the new lord. The parchment roll is headed—

WROTTESLEY Curia Willelmi le Boteler militis tenta ibidem die mercurii proximo post festum Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anno regni regis Henrici quarti post conquestum quarto. (27 June 1403.)

The jury consisted of:—

John Huggyns	John Oxemon
Thomas Jackesson	John Fraunceys
Thomas Addesson	William Grene
Adam Smyth	William Carte, and
John Grene	John Hamond,
John Lyegh	

who made the following presentments:—

Richard Fletcher, of Norton, had broken into the lord's park and carried away a cartload of "tremul." His fine was 40d.

John Moy had carried off five cartloads of timber from the park. Fined 10d.

Hugh Clemson had done the same. Fined 10d.

William Whyte had carried away timber called "Birches" and "Post de Gates" (*sic*). Fined 12d.

Richard Whyte had carried away timber as above. Fined 12d.

Richard Clemson had done the same, and was fined 12d.

They also presented that Walter de Wroottesley had enclosed two pieces of land near Kingeswode, called le Blakelyefeldes, which should be common every third year. Also William Gunston, a monk, had enclosed two pieces of land which should be common every third year, to the grievous injury of the tenants. The penalty imposed upon them, ("*ex assensu omnium tenentium*,"") was "*quod includent sepes suos circa comunes campos yemales (sic) citra festum Sancti Martini Episcopi et circa campos estimales citra festum Annunciationis Beate Marie sub pena cujuslibet Gap (sic) vid.*"

Roger Waryn was fined 2d. for allowing six cattle to stray in le Wodecroft *in herbagio domini*.

William Cartwright was fined 4d. for six oxen in le Stockyng on the lord's pasture.

William Okene was fined 2d. for a mare in le Wodecroft in the lord's wheat.

Richard Whyte 2d. for four oxen in le Stockyng on the lord's pasture.

John Moy was fined 2d. for the same.

John Fraunceys was fined 2d. for two oxen in le Rudynges in the lord's wheat.

William Rugge 2d. for five cows in le Rudynges in the lord's oats.

Adam Smyth 1d. for his pigs in the lord's oats.

John Huggyns 1d. for two oxen in le Brodemedowe on the lord's pasture.

William Berney 2d. for two oxen in the same place.

William Grene 2d. for four cows in the same place.

John Hamond 2d. for three oxen in the same place.

John Grene 1d. for two cows in the same place.

John Lyegh 1d. for two oxen in the same place.

John Oxemon 2d. for three oxen in the same place.

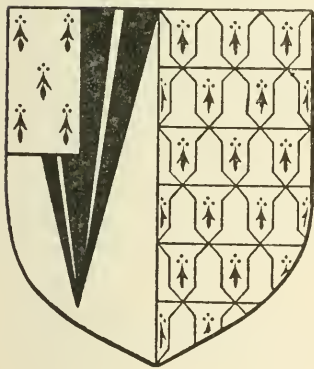
Thomas Addeson 2d. for two oxen in the same place.

William Carte 2d. for two oxen in the same place, and

John Gunstone 2d. for four oxen in the lord's wheat.

These presentments give an idea of the waste and destruction in the demesne of a manor during the minority of a lord. The roll makes no mention of villein tenants, and the distinction between them and the free tenants was evidently fast disappearing.

HUGH WROTTESLEY, A.D. 1421—1464.



With the advent of this Hugh to his estate, the French prefix "de" was omitted from the family name, and was never afterwards resumed. He is shewn to be son of John de Wroottesley by the Inquisition on his father's death, by the writ on the Chester Recognizance Roll of 4 Henry IV, by the Inquisition on the death of Sir John Arderne, in 9 Henry IV, and by the proceedings on the Chester Plea Roll of 10 Henry IV, which have been already recounted.

In the same year that he completed his majority we find him married to his wife, Thomasine, for an abstract of the will of Katherine, widow of Sir Thomas Walshe, Kt., of Wanlip, co. Leicester, dated 8 Henry V, contains a bequest to Thomasine

Wrottesley. According to the Heralds' Visitations, Thomasine was daughter of Sir John Gresley, of Drakelow.¹ At this date she could not have been more than eleven years of age, for Sir John Gresley married his first wife, Elizabeth Clarell, in 1409.²

When Hugh married Thomasine, it was probably made a condition of the contract that on the consummation of the marriage he should be invested with the Wrottesley estates, but he appears to have held them in the first instance as tenant only under his mother, for he is not found dealing with the property as legal owner before 1441. By a deed dated from Wrottesley on the Tuesday before the Feast of SS. Simon and Jude, 20 Henry VI (24 Oct. 1441), Hugh Wrottesley conveyed Wrottesley and Butterton and the three water mills to trustees, who reconveyed them two days afterwards to Hugh and his wife, Thomasine, and to the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to the right heirs of Hugh for ever. The year 1441 may be therefore assumed as the date of his mother's death; her husband, Lord Ferrers of Groby, died in 1445.

There is evidence, however, that Hugh was resident at Wrottesley for some years before the date of these deeds. In 1433 he was returned as one of the gentry of Staffordshire who were sworn to keep the peace by the Commissioners of 12 Henry VI,³ at the time that the pretensions of the House of York were first brought forward, and he occurs as witness to a Patshull deed of 17 Henry VI, in Huntbach's Collection.⁴

In 11 Henry VI, in conjunction with Robert de Legh of Adlington, he attempted to recover the Arderne estates in Cheshire. Taking advantage, apparently, of the absence of Thomas de Stanley the tenant by courtesy, Robert de Legh, in the name of himself and of Hugh, had taken possession of the manors of Aldeford, Nether Alderley and Echels, and of eighty acres of land in the last named manor.

Thomas de Stanley immediately took steps to assert his rights, and brought an action of novel disseisin against him and Hugh de Wrottesley in the Chester Courts. The suit was heard on the Tuesday before the Feast of

¹ Harl. MS. 2044; also an ancient parchment pedigree formerly at Wrottesley, and painted glass in the Wrottesley Chancel of the Tudor period, both name her as daughter of Sir John Gresley.

² Deed No. 387, of Jeayes' Gresley Charters. Margaret, the daughter of Sir Thomas Walshe and Katharine, had married Sir Thomas Gresley, the father of Sir John. Katharine would therefore be great grandmother of Thomasine. (History of the Gresley Family by F. Madan).

³ Fuller's Worthies.

⁴ Huntbach's Collections Vol. ii, formerly at Wrottesley.

St. Matthew, 11 Henry VI (September 1432) before Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester, then Justice of Chester.

The Record states that an Assize was formed to return a verdict whether Robert, son of Robert de Legh, and Hugh de Wroottesley had unjustly disseised Thomas de Stanley of his manors of Echels, Aldeford, and Nether Alderley, and of eighty acres of land. Robert appeared in person, but Hugh de Wroottesley made no appearance, and the assize was taken in his absence. Robert denied the disseisin, and put himself on the assize.

The jury stated that one Robert de Hampton, the Parson of Alderley, and John, son of Roger de Motlowe, were formerly seised of the manor of Alderley, and whilst so seised had granted it to John de Arderne and Elena his wife, to be held by them for their lives, and with remainder to Thomas de Arderne, the son of Elena, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such, to Walkeline, brother of Thomas, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such, to the male heirs of the bodies of John and Elena, and failing such, to the right heirs of John de Arderne. By virtue of which deed John and Elena were seised of the manors, and had issue Matilda and Isabella, and Matilda married one Robert de Legh, and had issue Robert de Legh, Kt., and Robert, son of Robert, had issue Robert, and Robert, son of Robert son of Robert, had issue Robert the defendant. And Isabella married Hugh de Wroottesley, Knight, and had issue John, who had issue Hugh, the other defendant; and John de Arderne and Elena had died leaving no male issue, and Walkeline (son of Elena) had also died leaving no male issue. And Thomas, son of Elena, had entered, and had issue John, who married Margaret, and had issue Matilda; and John, son of Thomas had entered, and had enfeofed John Pygot, Peter de Bulkelegh, of Chedle, Roger de Pilkington, John Pilkington, Edward de Bensted; Kt., Thomas de Gresley, Kt., and several others named,¹ and these had re-enfeofed John, son of Thomas, and Margaret, his wife, for their lives, with remainder to the heirs of their bodies. And John, son of Thomas, had died, leaving no male issue, and Margaret remained in possession of the manor, and Robert de Legh, Kt., claiming the manor, in his own right and in that of Hugh, his coparcener, by reason of the remainder, had entered and removed Margaret, and Margaret afterwards re-entered and expelled the said Robert and Hugh. And Robert afterwards died, and Margaret had also died in possession. And Matilda, daughter of John, son of Thomas (de Arderne), then entered and married Thomas de Stanley, the plaintiff,

¹ See previous proceedings of 10 Henry IV, at p. 194.

and they had issue John, now living. And Matilda died, and Thomas remained in possession by the courtesy of England. And Robert, son of Robert de Legh, the defendant, supposing that Robert de Legh, Kt., his grandfather, had died seised of the manor, when he had not died seised of it, nor of any parcel of it, had entered, as in his own right and in the right of the said Hugh, and had expelled the said Thomas, but whether such a removal was a disseisin in law the jury were ignorant.

And as regarded the manor of Aldeford, they said that John, son of Thomas de Arden was seised of it in demesne as of fee, and had enfeofed in it the said John Pygot and the others abovenamed, and the said feoffees had granted it to the said John, son of Thomas, and Margaret, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, and John, son of Thomas, and Margaret had issue the said Matilda, late wife of Thomas de Stanley. And John, son of Thomas, died, and Margaret remained in possession. And Robert de Legh, Chivaler, claiming the manor as in his own right and in right of the said Hugh, and supposing that the said Robert de Hampton and John FitzRoger had granted the manor to John de Arden and Elena, with the remainders above stated, whereas they had never done so, had entered and removed the said Margaret, and Margaret had afterwards re-entered and expelled the said Robert and Hugh, and Robert de Legh, Chivaler, afterwards died, and Margaret died seised of the manor. (*From this point the story is the same verbatim as in the case of the manor of Alderley*).

And as regarded the manor of Echells and the eighty acres of land in question, the said Robert de Hampton and Robert de Mancestre, chaplain, were formerly seised of it, and had granted it to John de Arderne, Kt., and Elena, his wife, and to the said Thomas, the son of John and Elena, for their lives, with remainder to the heirs male of the body of Thomas, and failing such, to the heirs of the body of the said Thomas, and failing such to the heirs of the body of John and Elena, and failing such to one Elizabeth, the sister of Thomas, son of John, and the heirs of her body, and failing such, to one Alina, sister of Elizabeth, and the heirs of her body, and failing such, to one Cecilia, sister of Alina, and the heirs of her body, and failing such, to remain to one Robert de Eton and his heirs for ever.

And John [de Arderne] and Elena, and Thomas, their son, were so seised of the manor and land. And John and Elena died, leaving no male heir of their bodies, and Thomas, son of John and Elena, had issue John, who died seised of the manor and land. And in 20 Richard II, a fine was levied between John, son of Thomas de Arderne, and Margaret his wife, com-

plainants, and Nicholas de Prestewich, deforciant, of the said manor and eighty acres of land, by which the manor, etc., was settled on the said John de Arderne and Margaret, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies. And John and Margaret had issue Matilda. And John died, and Margaret remained in possession. And Robert de Legh, Kt., had ejected Margaret, but Margaret had re-entered, and had died seised of the manor and land. And Matilda then entered as heir of John and Margaret, and had married Thomas de Stanley, the plaintiff, and they had issue John, now living. And Matilda died, and Thomas de Stanley remained in possession by the courtesy of England, until Robert de Legh, one of the defendants, under the supposition that his grandfather, Robert, had died seised of the property, had entered into possession, as in his own right and in the right of Hugh Wrottesley, but whether such a removal was a disseisin in law, the jury were ignorant. And the jury being asked, what damage Thomas de Stanley had sustained by his ejection from the manors and land, assessed his damage at £200. Judgment was then given that Thomas de Stanley should recover seisin of the manors and land and £200 as damages. And Thomas de Stanley afterwards remitted his claim for damages.

A Postscript states that Robert de Legh afterwards appealed to a jury of twenty-four, and the appeal was heard on Tuesday before the Feast of St. Cedde, 11 Henry VI, when a verdict was again given in favour of Thomas de Stanley.¹

Hugh Wrottesley must have aided and abetted in some way the abortive attempt of the Duke of York to wrest power from the Somerset faction in 1452, for he was one of upwards of 2000 persons who received pardons in that year after the general amnesty proclaimed by the King on Good Friday 1452. Richard, Duke of York, had raised the tenants of the house of Mortimer on the marches of Wales in January of that year, and on the 3rd February issued a manifesto at Shrewsbury asking for support against the Duke of Somerset. From Shrewsbury he passed through Staffordshire on his way to London. On the 6th February the Court left London to encounter the Duke, and summonses were issued to join the King at Coventry.

York and his friends took no notice of this summons, but, avoiding the line of the Royal march, pressed on towards

¹ Chester Pleas, 11 Henry VI, m. 27. According to Ormerod, the heiress, Matilda de Arderne, married Thomas de Stanley, the third son of Sir John Stanley, K.G., of Lathom and Knowsley.

London. Finding, however, that they would not be allowed to enter the City, they crossed the Thames at Kingston, and so made their way into Kent, hoping, doubtless, to find elements of disaffection there.

Henry promptly retraced his steps, and reached London the 27th February. On the 1st March he went down to Welling, near Crayford, the Duke of York and his host being established at Dartford, on the other side of the Darent, where he was too strong to be attacked.

Negotiations were opened from the King's side, to induce York to make friends with Somerset, a free pardon being offered to him and his men if they would retire. But Richard insisted that Somerset should be committed to the Tower to answer the charges he was prepared to bring against him.

Eventually York's terms were conceded, whereupon he gave the order for disbanding his men, and repaired to the Royal tent. There to his great disgust he found Somerset in his accustomed place, and York was taken to London virtually a prisoner. He ultimately purchased his liberty by swearing a solemn oath at St. Paul's, in the presence of a vast concourse of people, never again to take the law into his own hands.¹

The pacification with the Duke of York was followed by the proclamation of a General Pardon, issued by the King in honour of Good Friday (7th April). Some two or three thousand persons, with the Duke of York at their head, came in to claim the indulgence, and had Patents made out to them. Hugh Wrottesley's pardon was preserved at Wrottesley until the late fire, and was dated the 16th June, 30 Henry VI.

The next appearance of Hugh Wrottesley on any public document is on the de Banco Roll of Hillary term, 34 Henry VI (1456), where he is found, in conjunction with Sir John Gresley and John Moy, suing one John Knyght, of Byllerbrok (Billbrook), for breaking into their close at Billerbrok and depasturing cattle on their grass. The defendant did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest and produce him at the following term.² John Moy was Hugh's tenant at Billbrook, and Sir John Gresley was Hugh's brother-in-law, but I have no clue to the reason of his interest in the Billbrook estate.

Between this date and the date of his death, Hugh was plaintiff in three other suits which will be found in Vol. iv, New Series of Staffordshire Collections, but they contain nothing of interest.

¹ "Lancaster and York," by Sir James Ramsay, of Banff, 1892.

² De Banco Roll, Hillary, 34 Henry VI, m. 171 dorso.

In 3 Edward IV (1463) he made a new disposition of his estates, for having enfeoffed in the manor of Wrottesley, Thomas Asteley, Henry Wrottesley, and Thomas Everdon, the above trustees reconveyed it to Hugh and Thomasine, his wife, for their lives with remainder to Walter Wrottesley, Kt., and Jane, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, and failing such to remain to the right heirs of Hugh. This is the latest appearance of Hugh Wrottesley. On the Court Roll of 5th October 1464, Walter Wrottesley, Kt., is described as "dominus de Wrottesley." Hugh, therefore, died in the interval between the 14th June 1463 and 5th October 1464. At this date he would be sixty-four years of age.

He left two sons, Walter, who has been already named, and who had been knighted in his father's lifetime, and Henry, who, though a younger son, is always styled armiger, and had been probably brought up to the profession of arms. In addition to these, a John Wrottesley, who is named in a Salop Fine of 36 Henry VI, and a Hugh Wrottesley, who occurs in 8 Edward IV, were probably sons of this Hugh. By the above Fine John Wrottesley and Joan, his wife, conveyed the manor of Stevynton, co. Salop, to certain trustees named in it, and on the De Banco Roll of Trinity 8 Edward IV, Hugh Wrottesley sued John Flemyng, late of Tettenhale, for breaking into his close at Tettenhale, depasturing cattle on his corn and grass, and so threatening his servants that for fear of their lives, they were afraid to leave the enclosure of his house.¹

Besides these children, an old parchment pedigree, formerly at Wrottesley, in the handwriting of the Tudor period, named a daughter Elizabeth, married to Sir William Stafford, and some county histories and Heralds' Visitations name another daughter Isabella, married to Sir William Airmyn, of Osgodby, co. Lincoln.

The deeds formerly at Wrottesley of the epoch of this Hugh were as follows:—

Sciant presentes et futuri, quod ego Hugo Wrottesley Armiger, dedi concessi et hac presenti carta confirmavi Thome Astley Armigero, Galfrido Gresley Armigero, et Willelmo Arderne clerico, maneria mea de Wrottesley et Butterson ac omnia alia terras et tenementa mea, redditus et servicia omnium tenentum meorum tam liberorum quam nativorum infra dicta maneria existentium, cum omnibus suis pertinentiis necnon molendina mea aquatica de Trille mylne, Wyghwyke mylne et Burdon mylne cum omnibus eorum pertinentiis ac omnia alia terras et tenementa mea, redditus et servicia cum omnibus suis pertinentiis in Grendon, et Waterfall et

¹ De Banco, Trinity, 8 Edward IV, m. 292 dorso.

alibi infra Comitatum Staffordie. Habenda et tenenda omnia predicta maneria, terras et tenementa, redditus et servicia, molendina aquatica, ac omnia alia terras et tenementa, redditus et servicia in Grendon et Waterfall ac alibi infra Comitatum Staffordie cum omnibus et singulis eorum pertinentiis prefatis Thome, Galfrido, et Willelmo, heredibus suis et eorum assignatis, libere, bene et in pace in perpetuum de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per servicia inde prius debita et de jure consueta. Et ego vero, etc. (*clause of warranty*). In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte sigillum meum opposui. Hiis testibus Willelmo Leveson de Hampton, Jacobo Leveson de Wylnehale, Nicholao Waryng de Lee, Johanne Lone de Hyde, Simone Hadyngton de Byssheton et aliis Data apud Wrottesley die Martis proximo ante festum Apostolicorum Simonis et Jude anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum Anglie vicesimo.¹ (24 October, 1441.)



Sciant presentes et futuri quod nos Thomas Astley, Armiger, Galfridus Gresley, Armiger, et Willelmus Arderne Clericus, dedimus, concessimus et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus Hugoni Wrottesley Armigero, et Thomasine uxori sue, maneria nostra de Wrottesley et Butterson ac omnia alia terras et tenementa nostra, redditus, et servicia omnium tenentum nostrorum tam liberorum quam natorum infra dicta maneria existentum cum omnibus suis pertinentiis necnon molendina nostra aquatica de Trille mylne Wythewyk mylne et Burdon mylne cum omnibus eorum pertinentiis ac etiam omnia alia terras et tenementa nostra, redditus et servicia cum omnibus suis pertinentiis in Grendon et Waterfall ac alibi infra comitatum Staffordie que quidem maneria redditus et servicia predicta in Grendon et Waterfall ac alibi infra dictum Comitatum Staffordie cum omnibus et singulis eorum pertinentiis prius habuimus ex dono et feoffamento predicti Hugonis. Habenda et tenenda

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

predicta maneria terras et tenementa, redditus, et servicia cum omnibus suis pertinentiis in Grendon et Waterfall ac alibi in Comitatu Staffordie prefatis Hugoni et Thomasine et heredibus suis inter eos legitime procreatis libere, quiete, bene, et in pace in perpetuum de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum per servicia inde prius debita et de jure consueta. Et si contingat prefatos Hugonem et Thomasinam sine heredibus inter se legitime procreatis obire, quod absit, tunc volumus et concedimus per presentes quod predicta maneria, terre et tenementa redditus et servicia cum omnibus et singulis eorum pertinentiis in Grendon et Waterfall et alibi in Comitatu Staffordie ut supradictum est, rectis heredibus predicti Hugonis integre remaneant in perpetuum. Et nos vero (*here follows clause of warranty*). In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte nostre sigilla nostra apposuimus. Hiis testibus Johanne Hampton de Storeton, Roberto Gyffarde de Chilyngton, Willelmo Leveson de Hampton, Jacobo Leveson de Wilenhale, Simone Hadyngton de Byssheton, Ricardo Waryn de Lee, Johanne Lone de Hyde et aliis. Data apud Wrottesley die Jovis proximo ante festum Apostolicorum Simonis et Jude anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum Anglie vicesimo.¹ (26th October 1441.) (Seals destroyed.)

Sciant presentes et futuri, quod nos Thomas Astley, Armiger, Henricus Wrottesley, Armiger, et Thomas Everdon, tradidimus et hac carta nostra indentata confirmavimus Hugoni Wrottesley Armigero, et Thomasie uxori ejus, manerium nostrum de Wrottesley cum pertinentiis in Comitatu Staffordie. Habendum et tenendum predictum manerium cum pertinentiis prefatis Hugoni et Thomasie ad terminum vite eorum et alterius eorum diuturne viventis absque impetitione vasti. Ita quod post decessum dictorum Hugonis et Thomasie predictum manerium cum pertinentiis integre remaneat Waltero Wrottesley militi et Johanne uxori ejus et heredibus de corpore eorum inter eos legitime procreatis. Et si contingat dictos Walterum et Johannam sine herede de corporibus eorum inter eos legitime procreatis obire, tunc predictum manerium cum pertinentiis integre remaneat rectis heredibus dicti Hugonis Wrottesley. Habendum sibi, heredibus et assignatis suis in perpetuum Tenendum de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta. In cujus rei testimonium cuilibet parti hujus presentis carte nostre indentate sigilla nostra apposuimus. Hiis testibus Johanne Ferrouer clerico, Johanne Barndhurst, Johanne Wrottesley, Ricardo Croukwall, Ricardo Croft et aliis. Data apud Wrottesley predictum quarto decimo die Junii anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum tertio.¹ (14th June 1463).

Three seals appendant, not armorial, and without any inscription on them. The centre seal, which is apparently that of Henry Wrottesley, had the effigies of two men on foot, fighting with swords.

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

In addition to these deeds, there were formerly at Wrottesley the proceedings of several Manor Courts held by Hugh and Thomasine. I propose to give abstracts of some of these which will best illustrate the status of the villein tenant in the fifteenth century and his gradual disappearance from the scene.

Hugh Wrottesley and Thomasine, his wife, who are styled "domini de Wrottesley," held a Court on Tuesday, the 8th May, 20 Henry VI (1442).

The jury consisted of:—

Gregory Taylour

Richard Elyot

John Oxeman

John Burnell

Ralph Wryght

John Huxlowe, and

William Parker

Roger atte Lye,

William atte Zate

who being sworn in, stated that Alexander Perpoint owed appearance at Court, and had not come because he had not been summoned.

That John de Grene, the lord's native by blood (*nativus de sanguine*), resided out of the manor at Bewdeley or near that place, and they knew nothing of his issue, and that William de Grene, the lord's native, likewise lived out of the manor, and that John de Grene, the elder, the lord's native, lived out of the manor at London, and had a son John, and further enquiry is to be made respecting them (*de quibus melius inquirendum est*).

It was presented that William atte Zate's house and close was in a ruinous condition, and he was ordered to repair them before the next Court, under a penalty of 10s.

William afterwards surrendered his tenement to the lord, for which, according to the custom of the manor, there fell to the lord a heriot, viz., his best beast (*optimum averium*), and the Bailiff was ordered to take it to the use of the lord.

The Roll concludes with the words:—*Rogerus de Lye nativus domini electus est et honoratus ad officium prepositi domini per mandatum suum, et juratus.*

It would appear, therefore, that this Roger, after the surrender of their tenancies by the Greens and Yates, was the only villein tenant left in the manor, and was held in such high esteem that he was made Provost of it by mandate of the lord.

A Court called a "Curia recognitionum tenentium" was held at Wrottesley by Hugh Wrottesley, Armiger, and Thomasine, his wife, on 2 June, 22 Henry VI (1444),

Geoffrey Gresley, Armiger, officiating as *Seneschallus*. The following tenants appeared and acknowledged their holdings:—

Roger Leigh, *nativus domini*, held the land formerly Cartes, and some other tenements specified, for which he rendered 21s. 8d. annually.

Alexander Perpount held a tenement, for which he rendered 12s.; and the following held tenements for which they paid the rents placed against their names:—

John Taillour, 15s.

John Burnell, 13s. 4d.

John Haukeslowe, 3s. 8d.

John Oxeman, 15s. 10d.

Ralph Wryght, 16s.

William Parker, 13s. 4d. and 20d.

Thomas atte Lowe, a cottage, rent 20d.

Sawnder Pyrponde, a cottage, rent 20d., and another cottage, for which he paid 16d.

It will be noted that the single villein tenant held the largest holding. Ralph Wright held the land which had been formerly held by William atte Yate and John Grene. These are the names of former villein tenants who had died or surrendered their holdings. The following tenants within the fee of Tettenhale appeared and acknowledged their holdings:—

Simon de Croftes, rent 12s. 4d.

William Falles, 4s.

John Wylkes, of Allerley, 10s.

A jury was then formed and sworn in, consisting of the following tenants:—

John Taillour

Alexander Perpount

John Oxeman

John Burnell

Thomas atte Lowe

Roger Fleeming

Ralph Wryght

William Parker

Roger Leigh

Simon de Croftes

William Falles, and

John Wylkes.

The jury stated upon oath that William Parkes, John de Wylges (Wergs), Richard Wylkes of Wilnehale, John Baker of Tettenhale, William de Sydenhale of Compton, John Smyth of Oken, Philip Smyth of Cotteshale, and John Jones of Pattushull, owed appearance and had not come, and were therefore *in misericordia domini*. They were fined 4d. each. The jury further presented that John Cartwright of Oken, John Throwley, Richard Sede, John Port, William Port, Gregory Taillour, John Smyth, William de Chaumbre and William de Hylton, all of Oken, had occupied common of pasture, with all kinds of cattle, by which it had been

deteriorated to the injury of the other tenants of the vill; and that Thomas Seyse of Perton, William Pakyn-ton of Oken, John Hochins and William Ryley, both of Oken, had done the same. All those named had a fine of 40d. placed above their names. This presentment shews that the tenants of Wrottesley, Oaken and Perton had still reciprocal rights of common over the waste of each manor.

A "Magna Curia" was held by Hugh Wrottesley and Thomasine on the Feast of St. Bartholomew, 24 Henry VI (1446). The jury consisted of:—

Roger Lyegh	William Paver
Alexander Perepount	Thomas Lowe
John Taillour	John Hawkyslowe
John Oxeman	John Burnehull, and
Ralph Wright	William Parker.

John Glover, of Codeshall, came into Court and acknowledged that he held of the lord a house called the Forge, newly-built, near the Cross in Codeshale, with a garden adjoining, for a term of twenty-one years, at a yearly rent of 3s. 4d. and the usual customs. Several Fines were imposed upon tenants for permitting their cattle to stray on the lord's demesne, the fines varying from 4d. to 6d. each.

There were also proceedings of Courts held in 26 and 28 Henry VI by Hugh and Thomasine, but they present nothing of interest.

The "Magna Curia" of 11 December, 32 Henry VI (1453) names no lord. The steward was John Prynce. The jury consisted of:—

Alexander Perepoynt	John Burnehull
John Taillour	John Stubbs
Roger Lyee	Robert Fernyhall
John Oxeman	William Oxeman, the younger,
Ralph Wright	and John Haburley.

On the complaint of the Bailiff, the following tenants were fined for allowing their cattle to stray on the lord's demesne:—

John Legh, 6d.	Agnes Lowe, 4d.
John Magot, 4d.	John Fletcher, 6d., and
Roger Legh, 4d.	John Grene, 6d.
Walfrun (<i>sic</i>) Banastre, 4d.	

It would appear from this Court that one member of

the absconding family of the Grenes had returned to the manor.

The Court Rolls of the years 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, Henry VI and 2 Edward IV were also preserved at Wroottesley, but they contain nothing of interest, and specify no villein tenants. In all these Courts Hugh Wroottesley and Thomasine were named as joint lord and lady of the manor. On the 5th October, 4 Edward IV (1464), as already mentioned, a Court was held in the name of Sir Walter Wroottesley, and this brings us down to the date of the death of Hugh.

Before proceeding with the history of Sir Walter Wroottesley, it may be more convenient to detail at this point the story of the Wroottesley manor down to the disappearance of the last native or villein tenant.

A Court was held at Wroottesley (*per essoniam*), which names no lord, on the Thursday, the Feast of the Translation of St. Edward the King, 4 Edward IV (20th June 1465). The jury consisted of—

Roger Legh	John Legh
John Fletcher	William Suker
John Taillour	David ap Idam
Alexander Perpount	William Caldewall, and
John Grene.	

William Hancokes and Richard Hancokes came into Court and received from the lord a messuage with its appurtenances, formerly John Burnell's.

The following tenants were fined the sum placed against their names for allowing their cattle to stray on the lord's demesne :—

John Northwode, of Hille, 12d.	William Medley, 12d.
William Sheldon, of Perton, 4d.	Thom. Suker, of Perton, 8d.
John Porter, of Oken, 12d.	William Hode, of Oken, 4d.
Robert Seede, of Oken, 6d.	John Burnell, 12d., and
John Taillour, 4d.	Thomas Cresswall, 8d.

The proceedings make no distinction between the free and servile tenants, but we know from other sources that the Leghs and Grenes were natives of the manor.

As already mentioned, Sir Walter Wroottesley, Knight, held a Court at Wroottesley (by his *essoyn*) on the 5th October, 4 Edward IV (1464), but his name must have been introduced into the proceedings by mistake, for by the settlement of 1463 Thomasine, the widow of Hugh Wroottesley, would hold the manor for her life.

The next Court, of which the proceedings were extant, was held by "Domina Thomasina Wrattesseley" on the 20th February, 49 Henry VI (1471). The jury consisted of—

John Taylour	William Sewker
John Grene	Alexander Perpount
John Fletcher	Hugh Lee
Gregory Taylour	Richard Serfe, and
John Lee	Richard Taylour,

who made presentiments against the following tenants for the usual misdemeanours, such as allowing their cattle to stray on the lord's demesne or cutting timber, viz. :—

Joan Grene	Henry Preste
William Hude, of Okun,	John Hill
John Porter	Thomas Hill
Richard Throwley	Thomas Cartwright, and
John Wryght, and	Richard Trentam.
Richard Wryght, his son	

At the Court of Thomasine Wrottesley, held at Wrottesley, on the Tuesday before the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, 13 Edward IV (November 1473), the jury consisted of—

John Taillour	Richard Seys
William Suker	Roger Legh
John Fletcher	Gregory Taillour
William Bolton	John Legh, and
Alexander Perepount	Richard Fletcher.

Richard Seys came into Court and received from the lady of the manor a tenement with its appurtenances, formerly Alexander Perepoynts, rendering the same rent as the said Alexander, and he was admitted.¹ The only other tenants named on this Roll besides the jury were John Oxeman and John Alden.

At the Court held by Thomasine on the Thursday after the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, 14 Edward IV (October 1473), the jury were—

John Taillour	William Bolton
John Fletcher	Richard Seys
Roger Leegh	Gregory Taillour and
John Leegh	Richard Fletcher,
William Suker	

all of whom, with the exception of John Leegh, Gregory Taillour, and Richard Fletcher were fined 3s. 4d. each for absence at the previous Court, *et pro malo gestu suo versus*

¹ There were two tenants named Alexander or Saunder Perepoynt.

curiam domine ibidem. As it is not likely that a majority of the jury imposed fines upon themselves for such an offence, this must have been done by the Steward, and it would be curious to know if these fines were enforced by distraint.

The usual presentments were made against tenants for cattle straying or defective enclosures. The other tenants named in these presentments, who were not on the jury, were Alexander Perpoynt, William Hode, Richard Fildeshurst, William Preste, and John Cresswall.

Thomasine likewise held Courts at the following dates, viz.:—On the Monday after the Feast of St. Luke, 15 Edward IV; the Saturday after the same Feast, 16 Edward IV; the Tuesday after the same Feast, 17 Edward IV; and the Thursday after the same Feast, 18 Edward IV.

At the Court held on the Tuesday after the Feast of St. Luke, 17 Edward IV (October 1477), the jury consisted of—

John Fletcher	William Sucker
John Alden	Thomas Legh, and
Richard Fletcher	William Bolton,
Richard Seys	

who presented that Roger Legh, the lord's native, had died since the last Court, upon which a cow had fallen to the lord as a heriot, and that John, his son, was heir to the said Roger, and was of the same stock (*sequela*).

A postscript, in another hand, is added in these terms—

Postea venit predictus Johannes Leege in Curia tenta ibidem die Sabbati in Septimanis Pasche anno regni regis Henrici septimi quarto, et dominus perdonavit predictum Johannem cum tota sequela sua prout patet per scriptum manumissionis.

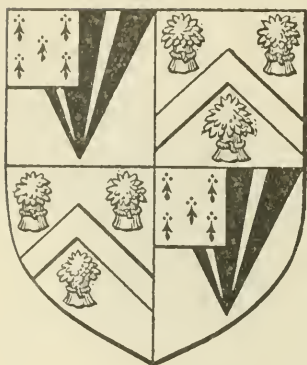
This John Legh was the last of the Wrottesley natives or villein tenants, and, as shewn by the above memorandum, was manumitted by Richard Wrottesley at the Easter Court of 1489.

ARMS OF HUGH WROTTESELEY.

On the dexter side—Or, three piles Sable, a quarter Ermine, for Wrottesley.

On the sinister side—Vaire, Ermine and Gules, for Gresley.

SIR WALTER WROTTESELEY, 1464—1473.



Although Sir Walter Wrottesley is named as lord of Wrottesley on the Manor Roll of 1464, it must have been done under some misapprehension by the Steward of the Manor, for his mother Thomasine had been jointly enfeoffed in the manor with her husband Hugh, and therefore would hold the manor for her life. As a matter of fact, Walter never was lord of Wrottesley, for he died in the lifetime of his mother.

He is shewn to be son of Hugh, by the Inquisition on Thomasine Wrottesley, which was taken at her death in 1481, and by the suits respecting the Arderne inheritance on the Cheshire Plea Rolls of 22 Edward IV and 16 Henry VII.

Leland, the antiquary, who wrote his diary about sixty years after this date, says in it, "Sumetime the Wrottesleys were men of more land than they bee nowe, and greate with the Earle of Warwick." And it will be seen that the career of Sir Walter Wrottesley for the next ten years follows very closely the story of the King Maker's life.

The first public employment of Sir Walter was as Sheriff of Worcestershire in 37 Henry VI (1459). The Earl had married Emma, the daughter and heiress of the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, who were hereditary Sheriffs of Worcestershire, by reason of their descent from Urso d'Abetot, the Feudal Sheriff of the County in the reigns of the first three Norman Kings. The Hereditary Sheriff, or "Vicecomes de feodo," as he is styled on the Rolls, appointed a Deputy or Sub-Sheriff annually to perform the duties of the office, and Walter Wrottesley was, without doubt, the nominee of the Earl at this critical period of English history. It was in this year that the dispute between the two houses of York and Lancaster was first brought to the issue of arms. The battle of Blore Heath was fought on the 23rd September, and resulted in the defeat of the Lancastrians. Henry VI, who was at Worcester with a large force, advanced to meet the victorious Yorkists, but before they came to blows, Sir Andrew Trollope, who commanded a body of veteran troops on the side of the Yorkists, passed over to the Lancastrians, and the Yorkists, seised with a panic, dispersed in various directions. Warwick retreated into Devonshire and from thence passed over to Calais, of which he was the Governor. Walter Wrottesley,

apparently, accompanied him in his flight, for the Memoranda Roll of the Exchequer states that Walter Wrottesley, late Sub-Sheriff of co. Worcester, had not appeared at Michaelmas, 1459, to render his accounts, and he was amerced in consequence.

In the following year Warwick passed over into England and defeated the King at Northampton on the 10th July, and Henry was taken prisoner in the battle: on the 24th October a compromise was effected, by which Henry was to hold the crown for his life, and the Duke of York and his heirs were to succeed to it after his death. Walter Wrottesley was appointed Sheriff of Staffordshire at Michaelmas this year, and his brother Henry succeeded him as Sub-Sheriff of co. Worcester.

The appointment of Walter to the Shrievaldom of Staffordshire at this date is a proof of the trust reposed in him by the Yorkists, for Staffordshire was probably the most Lancastrian county in England. The Duchy of Lancaster had been merged into the Crown on the accession of Henry IV, and Henry VI had granted it to his wife, Margaret of Anjou, as part of her dower. The *caput* of the Duchy was Tutbury, in Staffordshire, and most of the manors in the eastern and northern parts of the County were held under it. The largest proprietor in the County, however, and the most influential from the extent of his possessions and his near relationship to the Crown, was Humphrey Stafford, the Duke of Buckingham, whose mother was sister and sole heir of Humphrey Plantagenet, the Duke of Gloucester. Humphrey Stafford had been killed at Northampton fighting on the side of the Lancastrians, and his heir was a grandson, who was a minor. All the gentry of Staffordshire, who held of the Duke, were Lancastrian in feeling, and committed to the cause of Henry VI. Of the other Staffordshire families of baronial rank, James Touchet Lord Audley had been killed at Blore Heath in 1458, fighting on the Lancastrian side. John Sutton Lord Dudley had also fought on the same side at Blore Heath, and had been taken prisoner; but his life had been spared, and he subsequently passed over to the side of the Yorkists. The political state of Staffordshire is well exemplified in the first Commission of the Peace issued by Edward IV on the 8th July 1461, for the only names of Staffordshire gentry on it are John Sutton of Dudley, Kt., Walter Blount, Kt., John de Audeley, John Harpur, Thomas Everdon, Thomas Asteley, Walter Wrottesley, Nicholas Waryng, and Thomas Wolseley.¹

¹ It is curious to note that even at the present day there are traces of the Lancastrian influence in Staffordshire, in the number of old taverns with

The Shrievalty of Walter commenced at Michaelmas 1460 and ended at Michaelmas 1461; it therefore comprised six months of 39 Henry VI and six months of 1 Edward IV. The Staffordshire Pipe Roll of 1 Edward IV is headed thus—

Walterus Wrottesley vicecomes hujus comitatus a festo Sancti Michaelis Anno 39 Henry VI nuper de facto et non de jure Regis Anglie, usque festum Sancti Michaelis anno primo Regis Edwardi IIII.

The military events during his Shrievalty were as follows:—In December 1460, the Duke of York, encountering Queen Margaret with a very inferior force at Wakefield, was defeated and killed, and the Queen advanced on the road to London with her victorious army: Warwick, attempting to stop her at St. Albans, was defeated, but forming a junction subsequently with the troops which Edward, the son of the Duke of York, had levied in the West of England, the combined force entered London, and Edward was proclaimed King on the 4th March 1461. At this date the young King was only eighteen years of age, and the government of the country was entirely in the hands of his near kinsman, the Earl of Warwick.¹

Walter Wrottesley must have been made a Knight at the Coronation of Edward IV, for he is styled a Knight in a deed in the Huntbach Collection, which is dated on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary, 1 Edward IV, which would be the 25th March 1461².

The cause of Henry VI, however, was still upheld in the North by Margaret the Queen and the adherents of the House of Lancaster, and Edward and the Earl of Warwick, having gathered together a large force, marched from London and encountered the Lancastrians at Towton on the 29th March. After an obstinate battle, the latter was completely defeated, and Edward was firmly established on the throne.

Sir Walter as well as his brother Henry appear to have

the signs of the White Swan and the White Hart, which were the badges of the Lancastrian party. The story which has crept into English history that the Lancastrian badge was a red rose has been shewn to be a fiction by Sir James Ramsay in his *History of Lancaster and York*. The red rose was assumed as a neutral badge by Henry VII after his marriage with Elizabeth of York.

¹ Edward's mother was Cecily Neville, who was aunt to Warwick. They were, therefore, first cousins.

² Huntbach MS., formerly at Wrottesley. The deed is a grant to St. Leonard by Sir Thomas Erdington, the Founder of the Chantry of St. Leonard of Bilston, of a messuage and five shops in Wolverhampton, adjacent to the messuage of John Lane. The deed is witnessed by Hugh Wrottesley and Sir Walter Wrottesley, Kt., and others.

been at Towton, for they were both fined for non-appearance at the Exchequer at Easter 1461, with their accounts, *ad proffrum suum faciendum*, as it was called.

Sir Walter was now liberally rewarded for his services to the Yorkist cause. At this period his father was alive, and his means must have been scanty, but notwithstanding this he had been made a Knight and placed in the King's Household, and early in the following year, 1462, the King conferred upon him and his male issue two-thirds of the manors of Clent, Mere and Handsworth, co. Stafford, together with the advowsons of the churches of Forton¹ and Handsworth, and the reversion of the other third of the same manors after the death of Margaret, the widow of Fulk Stafford. This grant is dated 26th January 1462.

These manors and advowsons had been forfeited to the Crown by the attainder of James Butler, the Earl of Wilts, and had been granted by the King to Fulk Stafford and the heirs of his body, and Fulk had died leaving no issue. The preamble to the Letters Patent which conferred them states that *nos laudabilia servicia et obsequia nobis per dilectum militem nostrum Walterum Wrottesley diversmodi impensa intime contemplantes*, etc.²

On the same date, the King granted to Sir Walter the manors of Ramisham and Penpole, co. Dorset, together with the advowson of the church of Ramisham, which had fallen into his hands by the death of his cousin, William Neville, Earl of Kent. The preamble to this grant contains the same reference to the services of Sir Walter, and the same expression, *dilectum militem nostrum*,³ is employed in it. These manors, like the others in Staffordshire, had been forfeited by the attainder of James Butler, Earl of Wilts, and had been granted to William Neville, a younger son of the Earl of Westmoreland.

By Letters Patent of the same date as the above, the King granted to Henry Wrottesley, Armiger, and the heirs male of his body, all the hereditaments in the City of London, which had lately belonged to Thomas Litley, attainted. This Thomas Litley was an eminent citizen of London, who had headed an insurrection in the City, and had attacked the Tower of London in 38 Henry VI.⁴

Sir Walter's Shrievalty of 1460-61 had involved him in

¹ Forton is the church of Mere, which derives its name from the Aqualate Meer.

² Patent Roll, 2 Edward IV, part 2, m. 16.

³ *Ibid.*, m. 17. The ordinary description of a Knight in official documents at this date would be *dilectum et fidem nostrum A.B. militem*. The term *dilectum militem nostrum* is only used for Knights in the King's Household.

⁴ *Coram Rege Roll*, 12 Edward IV.

a considerable debt to the Crown. The ordinary local revenue must have been difficult to collect in a county hostile to the Government in troublous times, and he had likewise upon his shoulders the cost of the levies made before the battle of Towton. From these combined causes, the debt owing to the Exchequer when he handed over the County to John Harcourt, the new Sheriff, at Michaelmas 1461, was £220 6s. 11d., but the King, by Letters Patent dated 28 January, 2 Edward IV (1463), remitted to him all the debts due to the Crown up to that date. Previous Letters Patent, dated 22 October, 2 Edward IV (1462), had pardoned him for all treasons, felonies, conspiracies, or any other offences, as well as all debts due to the Crown up to the last date. In these Letters he is described as *Walterus Wrottesley*, of London, armiger, *alias dictus Walterus Wrottesley*, of Wrottesley, armiger, *alias dictus Walterus Wrottesley*, of Wrottesley, co. Stafford, miles. The object of the various *aliases* in the pardons of this epoch seems to be to describe the recipient of the pardon according to the status which he held at any period over which the pardon extended.

Between this date and November 1464, Sir Walter must have resigned his position in the King's Household and accepted another of more responsibility in the Household of the Earl of Warwick, for at Coughton Court there is a warrant of Richard, Earl of Warwick and Salisbury, directing Thomas Throckmorton, his receiver of the Lordship of Glamorgan and Morgannok, to pay to Harry Vernon, Esqr., £30, and to John Blunte, John Owen, and others of the town of Kaerdeff, £15 7s. 8d., for bread, ale, and other things, part of the expenses of Walter Wrottesley, Edward Grey, and Walter Skall,¹ Knights of the Lord's Council, late there being. This warrant is dated from Warwick Castle, 22nd November 4 Edward IV (1464).

In 1466, on the death of the widow of Fulk Stafford, Sir Walter came into possession of the reversion of the third part of the manors of Clent, Mere and Handsworth, and he obtained fresh Letters Patent confirming these manors to him as well as the manors of Ramisham and Penpole. In these Letters he is no longer styled *militem nostrum* by the King, the ordinary designation of a Knight as *dilectum et fidelem nostrum* being used in place of it. The new Letters Patent stated that the King, for the good and gratuitous service which his beloved and faithful Walter Wrottesley, Kt., had performed in former times, (*ante hec tempora*), granted to him the manors of Mere, Clent, Hands-

¹ Sir Walter Skell, Kt., of Holt, co. Worcester.

worth, and Forton, together with the advowsons of the churches of Handsworth and Forton, in co. Stafford, and likewise the manors of Ramisham and Poundeknolle *alias* Penpole, and the advowson of the church of Ramisham, in co. Dorset, with all Knight's fees, warrens, and other franchises appertaining to them, which had formerly belonged to James, late Earl of Wilts, the King's rebel, who had been attainted of high treason at the Parliament held on the 4th November, 1 Edward IV, to be held by the said Walter and the heirs male of his body by the same service by which they had been held before the 1st March, 1 Edward IV, and with all profits and issues from the said manors from the 6th January, 2 Edward IV. Dated 8th February, 5 Edward IV.¹

Besides the six manors above named, Sir Walter possessed at this date the manor of Perton, co. Stafford, which adjoins Wrottesley, and the great manor or commote of Aven, co. Glamorgan.² These must have been conferred upon him by the King Maker, for they had formed no part of the possessions of the Earl of Wilts.

The revenues of the Crown had been so much diminished by the lavish grants made to the Queen's relations and to the adherents of the house of York, that an Act of Resumption was passed in 7-8 Edward IV, by which all lands and tenements which had been formerly held by the Crown and had been alienated, were taken back. The exceptions, however, were numerous, and amongst them were two clauses in favour of Sir Walter Wrottesley and his brother. These were as follows:—

“Provided alwey, that this acte of resumption, nor any other acte made or to be made in this present Parlement, extend not nor be prejudicial in any wyse to Sir Walter Wratessesley Knyght in, to, of, or for, any graunt by us to him made of the two parties of the maners of Clent, Mere and Hondesworth and of the reversion of the thirde partie of the seid maners, within oure Countie of Stafford, and of the maners of Ramersham and Pountknoll within

¹ Original Letters Patent at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. The Earl of Wilts, named in these Letters, was James Butler, son of James, 4th Earl of Ormond, in Ireland. He had been created Earl of Wiltshire in 1449, and succeeded his father as Earl of Ormond in 1452. He is styled in the Paston Letters as “the best favored Knight in the land and the most feared of losing his beauty.” He was supposed to be the lover of the Queen and the father of the heir apparent. He was certainly very high in favour at the Court of Henry VI, and had been appointed Lord Treasurer and Knight of the Garter. It was, in fact, the birth of this supposititious Prince that caused all the bloodshed of the following years. The Earl was taken prisoner at Towton and beheaded on the following day.

² Deeds at Wrottesley and Coughton—copied 1860-62—and History of the Parish of Tettenhall, by Mr J. P. Jones.

oure countie of Dorset, with the appurtenaunces, advowsons of the same and of the advowsons of the chirches of Forton and Hondesworth within oure seid Countie of Stafford. But that oure said graunte be to hym and to his heires male of his body commyng, good and effectuell in the lawe, any acte made or to be made in this present Parlement notwilkstonndyng."

"Provided alwey that neyther this acte, ne any other acte in this present Parlement made, be prejudiciall or hurtyng to Henry Wrottesley Squier in, to, of, or for, eny graunte or grauntes by us to hym made by oure Letters Patentes of a place situat at Cambrygge Key within oure Cite of London some tyme belonging to one Thomas Litley to the yerely value of x marcs, by what name, the seid Henry in the said Letters patentes be named or called."¹

The jealousies and dissensions which alienated the Earl from his allegiance to the King are matters of history. The estrangement between them became first apparent after the embassy of Warwick to the King of France in the spring of 1467. Warwick had been commissioned to propose a marriage between Margaret, the King's sister, and one of the French Princes; but whilst he was on this mission the King had committed himself to a marriage between his sister and the son of the Duke of Burgundy, the French King's adversary. Sir Walter Wrottesley acting, apparently in the capacity of the Earl's Steward and Paymaster, received a sum of £216 13s. 4d. for the expenses of this embassy, for the Pell Issues of Easter 7 Edward IV (1467) have the following entry:—

"Comiti Warwick misso in Ambassciata Regis versus Regem Francie, in denariis sibi liberatis per manus Walteri Wrotsley militis et aliis servientibus dicti Comitis, pro custubus et expensis suis, eundo et redeundo ex causis predictis, per breve de privato sigillo inde mandatum, de termino Michaelis proximo sequente £216 - 13 - 4d."

Warwick returned from France in July, bringing with him ambassadors on the part of the French King, whose object was to prevent, if possible, the alliance between Burgundy and England. Edward, however, received them coldly, and Warwick retired in high dudgeon to his castle

¹ Rolls of Parliament (printed) 7 and 8 Edward IV. Exceptions were also made in favour of Sir Geoffrey Gate, for grants in Essex; John Lord Dudley, Ralph Wolseley, Sir Thomas Erdington, and Richard Whetehill, Esq. The grant to the latter was an annuity of £11 from the Calais customs. Some of these names will appear in a future page of this history.

at Middleham, in Yorkshire. At this juncture, however, a temporary reconciliation was made between the King and the Earl by the intervention of Warwick's brother, George Neville, the Archbishop of York, and the Earl of Rivers, the father of the Queen, who met together at Nottingham and settled the terms of the agreement.

One of the grievances of Warwick was that whereas he was both High Admiral of England and Governor of Calais, he was unable to obtain the necessary funds for the support of the fleet or garrison, whilst large sums were drawn from the Exchequer for the benefit of the Queen's relations, and one of the conditions of the reconciliation was, that the Earl of Rivers, the Queen's father, should relinquish the office of Lord Treasurer; and, as a further check upon this expenditure, Warwick now brought forward a claim to be an Hereditary Chamberlain of the Exchequer, in right of his wife, and appointed Sir Walter Wrottesley to act jointly with him, and with power to name a deputy. The appointment appears to have puzzled the Barons of the Exchequer, and is entered as follows on the Memorandum Roll:—¹

Pro Waltero Wrottesley milite, admissio ad officium unius camarariorum de Recepta Scaccarii sive de Scaccario occupando, exercitendum pretextu Literarum Patentium Ricardi Comitis Warwick.

Memorandum, quod Ricardus Neville Comes Warwick et unus camarariorum hujus Scaccarii ut in jure Anne uxoris sue, mandavit hic per Milonem Metcalf generalem attornatum suum literas suas patentes sub sigillo armorum suorum sigillatas, petens eas irrotulari, et quas Barones preceperunt irrotulari in hec verba.

Ricardus Comes Warrevici et Sarum, unus camarariorum de Recepta Scaccarii domini nostri Regis sive unus camarariorum de Scaccario predicto, Omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint, salutem, Sciatis nos de fidelitate et circumspectione dilecti nobis Walteri Wrottesley militis plenarie plurimum confidentes, concessisse eidem Waltero officium unius camarariorum de Recepta Scaccarii domini Regis predicti sive officium unius camarariorum de Scaccario predicto una cum constitutione et ordinatione unius hostiariorum de Recepta predicta sive de Scaccario predicto ac constitutionibus et ordinationibus omnium officiarum et ministrorum eidem officio unius camarariorum qualitercumque pertinentum sive spectantum. Habendum et tenendum ac predictum officium, etc., prefato Waltero per se vel per deputatum suum seu deputatos suos sufficientes pro termino vite ejusdem Walteri cum omnibus et omnimodis vadiis, feodis, proficuis, vesturis, juribus, emolumentis, comoditatibus et ceteris pertinentiis quibuscumque eidem officio quoquomodo debitis et consuetis. Datum London quarto decimo die mensis Junii anno regni Regis Edwardi quarti octavo (14th June 1468).

¹ There appears no doubt, however, that the right existed; see the Introduction to the Red Book of the Exchequer by Mr. Hubert Hall.

Et super hoc predictus Walterus Wrottesley presens hic in curia xxx^{mo} die Junii hoc termino in propria persona sua petit se admitti ad officium predictum hic in Scaccario, etc. Et quia per dictum Milonem Metcalf testatum est in curia quod voluntas ipsius Comitis sic extitit ad premissa, idem Walterus Wrottesley admissus est per curiam ad officium predictum. Habendum et tenendum et exercitendum secundum formam et effectum literarum predictarum. Et super hoc idem Walterus Wrottesley sacramentum prestitit corporale ad secreta domini Regis celanda et ad omnia altera facienda que ad officium camararii pertinente facienda.¹

The Pell Issues of Easter, 8 Edward IV, notice the appointment in this way:—

Duobus camerariis, videlicet Ricardo Comiti Warwick et Waltero Wrottesley militi, conjunctim in officio unius camerarii de Scaccario predicto inter se £20, ac Johanni Leynton alteri camarariorum cuilibet eorum capiendo per diem viii^d. pro vadiis suis per idem tempus £7 - 4 - 0.

Another entry follows further down the Roll for the payment of a sum of 40s. to the Chamberlains, who are described in the same way.

A third entry on the same Roll is as follows:—

In denariis solutis, videlicet Ricardo Comite Warwick et Waltero Wrottesley militi conjunctim in officio unius camararii de Scaccario predicto inter se £20, ac Johanni Leynton alteri camarariorum £20.

The Pell Issues of Michaelmas 8 Edward IV omit the name of Warwick altogether, and the entry runs as follows:—

Liberationes camarariorum et aliorum officiariorum de magno Scaccario.

Waltero Wrottesley militi camarario ac Johanni Leynton reliquo camarariorum utriusque eorum capiendi per diem viii^d. 100/s.

It appears probable from these extracts that Walter Wrottesley had refused to undertake such an invidious office except in conjunction with the Earl—but this precaution served him little, for it will be seen he was soon left to bear by himself all the obloquy and danger of the post. The effect, however, of the appointment becomes apparent on the Rolls, for in the following year the Pell Issues of Easter, 9 Edward IV, shew a grant to the Earl of Warwick of £933 6s. 8d. for arraying ships and men for the safe custody of the seas. The same Roll contains, however, grants to Sir John Wodeville and to the Earl of Rivers, late Treasurer and now Constable of England. At the date of the reconciliation between Warwick and the King, Lord Rivers had been forced to resign his office of

¹ Memoranda Roll, Lord Treasurer, 8 Edward IV, Trinity, m. 4.

Lord Treasurer, but had been immediately promoted by the King into the higher and more important office of Constable.

In this year, viz., 8 Edward IV, under date of 22nd July, Sir Walter Wrottesley obtained another pardon for all offences, and a remittance of all claims due to the Crown. His brother Henry obtained the same on the 22nd October, and his father-in-law William Baron, one of the Tellers of the Exchequer, had the same dated 23rd July.

The Pell Issues of Easter, 9 Edward IV, contain a payment of 150s. to Henry Cheveley, Clerk to Walter Wrottesley, one of the Chamberlains, and another payment of 40s. to Ralph Ingolesby, another Clerk to Walter Wrottesley, *in recepta. scaccarii*.

The Pell Issues of the following year are unfortunately missing, and in 11 Edward IV Sir Walter was a fugitive in France with a price set upon his head.

Warwick, whose daughter Isabella had been married to the King's brother George, Duke of Clarence, had now determined to dethrone the King and substitute the Duke in his place. In February 1470 the men of Lincolnshire rose in rebellion, under the command of Sir Robert Welles. There can be no doubt whatever, from subsequent events, that this insurrection took place at the instigation of Warwick. The King, however, at this date, was ignorant of the plot, and on the 7th March issued commissions to the Duke and to the Earl to levy troops for his service in the counties of Worcester and Warwick. On the 12th March the King defeated the insurgents at Erpingham, in Rutlandshire, and took prisoners the two leaders Sir Robert Welles and Sir Thomas de la Launde. From the confessions of these two the King was first apprised of the plot against him.

Clarence and Warwick were on their way to join Sir Robert Welles, when they heard of his defeat. The King advanced to meet them, and when they were within a day's march of him, sent Garter King of Arms to summon them to his presence, to clear themselves of the offences charged against them by the confessions of Welles and de la Launde. Clarence and Warwick had issued proclamations calling out all the able-bodied men of the Midland counties, but the unpopularity of Clarence outweighed the popularity of the Earl, and very few joined their Standard. Finding themselves too weak to cope with the King, they fell back into the West of England, and were proclaimed traitors at York on the 24th March. In this writ the King ordered proclamation to be made in every county of England, offering a reward for the capture of the Duke

or Earl or of any of their followers, viz.:—for the Duke or Earl, £100 of yearly value in land or £1,000 in ready money; for a Knight, £20 yearly of his land or 100 marks in money; and for an Esquire, £10 of his land or £40 in ready money.¹

Up to this date no names of the proscribed appear on the Rolls except those of the Duke and Earl, but as the King pursued the fugitives he obtained more definite information respecting them, and on his arrival at Salisbury, he issued a writ dated 25th April, addressed to John Rogger, one of the Tellers of the Exchequer, and five others,² to take into the King's hands all the castles, demesnes and manors, lands, tenements, and other possessions of the following, the King's rebels and traitors likewise all their goods and chattels, and to cut down all their woods, and sell the timber and goods and chattels in the way most advantageous to the King.

The names of those thus proclaimed were:—	
George, Duke of Clarence	Sir Robert Strelley
Richard, Earl of Warwick	Sir Henry Lowys (Lewis)
Richard, Lord Welles	Sir Thomas Seymour
Sir Robert Welles	Sir Roger Towcotes
Sir Thomas Dymmok	Sir William Courtenay
Sir Thomas de la Launde	Peter Courtenay, Chaplain
Sir Walter Wrottesley	William Courtenay
Sir Edward Grey	Henry Grey of Groby
Sir Geoffrey Gate	Richard Roos
Sir Reginald Stourton	Roger Draycote

¹ Close Roll, 10 Edward IV, m. 7 dorso. The proclamation in its original English ends thus:—"that noon of his subgettes from that tyme forth (viz. 28 March) receyve them ne eyther of theyme ne theym ne either of theym ayde, favour, or assiste, with mete, drynk ne money or otherwise ne noon other persone which after the seid Duc and Erle have refused to come to oure seid sovereign lord as is aforesaid, abydyth with theyme or theyme aydeth or assisteth in any wise, but that every of the Kynges subgettes putte hem in effectuel devir to take the seid Duc and Erle and all other soo abydyng with theym or aidyng or assistyng theym as is above seid and theym suerly bryng to his Highnes uppon peyne of dethe, and he that takyth and bryngethe the seid Duc or Erle shall have for his reward to hym and his heyres a eli worth of his lond or yerly value or xlii in redy money atte his election, and for a Knyght xxli worth of his lond, or c marks in money, and for a Squyer xli worth of his lond or xlii in money, and over that cause oure seid sovereign lord to have hym and theym soo doying in the more tendre favour of his good grace at alle tymes hereafter."

² These were John Acton, armiger, of co. Stafford; Humfrey Blount, of co. Salop; Thomas Throgmorton, of co. Worcester; John Beaufeys, of co. Warwick; and John Colgylle, of co's. Southampton and Dorset. It will be noted that the persons named were residents of the counties in which the proscribed held lands, with the exception of the first-named, who was an officer of the Exchequer, and was, doubtless, put into the writ in order to take possession of the lands, etc., of the Duke and Earl, which were situated in many counties.

Sir Hugh Courtenay	George Longvile
Sir Nicholas Latymer	Thomas Stafford
Philip Courtenay	John Leynthorp
Humphrey Courtenay	John Peke
Thomas Grey of Groby	George Broun
William Knyvet	Richard Scroope
Henry Wroottesley	(All the above from Philip
John Pury	Courtenay downwards are
John Rugge	styled Esquires).
John Brokeman	John Penne
Richard Clapham	James Norrys
John Herthill	Robert Strangeways, son of
John Say, son of John Say,	James Strangeways, Kt.
Kt.	William Molyneux, the Duke's
John Seintlowe	Secretary
John Conyers, son of John	Henry Talbot
Conyers, Kt. .	Robert Otter, yoman
William Hudleston and Thomas	Richard Wareyn, yoman
Hudleston, sons of John	Thomas Otter, yoman
Hudleston, Kt.	John Otter, yoman
Gervase Horne of co. Kent, the	John Ruske, yoman
younger	William Yerburch, gentilman
Lawrence Ferelowe	Thomas Clemens, gentilman,
	and five Chaplains named. ¹

With the exception of the Duke and Earl, all those named before Sir Walter Wroottesley had been already taken and beheaded. Want of provisions had retarded the King's pursuit of the fugitives, and passing by Warwick Castle, where they were joined by the Countess and her two daughters, they fled to the south coast, collected ships, and sailed for Calais. As they passed Southampton, they found the *Trinity* one of Warwick's ships, in the harbour, and the more daring spirits amongst the Esquires volunteered to cut her out. The attempt failed, and three boats full of Warwick's men fell into the enemy's hands. The King handed them over to Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, the Marshal of the Army, by whose orders Clapham and nineteen other Esquires were hanged and afterwards impaled.²

¹ *Rot. Pat.* 10 *Edward IV.* m. 10 *dorso*. I have given the above names in full, for by some oversight, this important historical document does not appear in Rymer. It is curious to find three Greys of Groby in this list, for Elizabeth the Queen was widow of Sir John Grey of Groby. The three Greys named were brothers of Sir John. Sir Edward fought at Barnet against the King, but was subsequently pardoned (*Coram Rege Mich.* 12 *Edward IV.*).

² Oman's "Warwick," p. 200, and Lingard's "History of England." The story of the disgusting brutalities perpetrated on the dead bodies of Warwick's Squires will be found in Stow's Annals. The bodies were exposed on the gallows till the 13th May. Tiptoft obtained the sobriquet of "The Butcher" from his conduct on this occasion.

There is every reason to believe that Henry Wrottesley was one of the unfortunate Squires of Warwick who were taken and executed in this barbarous manner, for he disappears from the scene at this time, and a few days after the date of the execution the King issued a close writ, dated from Southampton, on the 1st May, pardoning Thomas Litley, alias Lytteley, merchant and grocer of London, for all offences, treasons, etc., perpetrated before the last day of April, and all forfeitures consequent on the same.¹ This is the same Thomas Litley whose tenements within the city of London had been granted to Henry Wrottesley. As the latter had not been attainted, Thomas Litley could not have recovered his property if Henry had been alive.

To return to Warwick and his suite. On the refusal of Lord Wenlock to admit them into Calais, they set sail for Honfleur, and sought shelter from the King of France. Louis invited the Duke and Earl to his Court at Amboise, whilst the rest of the fugitives were quartered in the neighbouring towns. Through the instrumentality of Louis, a reconciliation was effected between Margaret of Anjou and Warwick, who met at the Church of St. Mary at Angers on the 4th August. There Warwick swore, on a fragment of the true Cross, that he would be faithful to King Henry, and it was further arranged that Edward, the King's son, should marry Anne, the second daughter of Warwick, and on failure of issue by the Prince, that the Crown should devolve, at his death, on the Duke of Clarence. In pursuance of these arrangements Warwick and the Duke sailed for England, and landed at Dartmouth on the 25th September, where they proclaimed King Henry. Edward, being deserted by his own army, fled to Lynn and embarked for Holland. Shortly afterwards, Clarence and Warwick made a triumphal entry into London, and restored Henry to the throne on the 9th October 1470.

As was usual with a new reign, a fresh Commission of the Peace was issued for all the counties in England. After the reconciliation between Margaret and Warwick, it might have been expected that all the names of the principal landed gentry of the county would have been included in the Commission, whatever their political leaning might originally have been; but the only names of the heads of county families upon the Commission for Staffordshire are those of John, the Earl of Shrewsbury, Sir Walter Wrottesley, Sir John Gresley, Sir John Stanley, and William

¹ Close Roll, 10 Edward IV.

Mytton, all of whom appear to have been devoted adherents of the House of York.

A document at Coughton Court shews that Sir Walter Wrottesley was now appointed by Warwick, his Sheriff or Deputy in Glamorganshire and Morgannok. This great lordship had descended to Richard Beauchamp, a former Earl of Warwick, through his marriage with the heiress of the Despencers, who had inherited it from the De Clares. The Earl had a jurisdiction there little short of Palatine, and the Sheriff represented his authority over a very large district. In this document, which is dated 13th January 1471, Sir Walter Wrottesley, styling himself Sheriff of Glamorgan and Morgan, appoints John Throckmorton his Lieutenant in the Lordship of Aven, with full power to hold the Court there, and to do all other things according to the law and custom of the said Lordship. Aven was one of the Commotes or Hundreds of the county.¹

About the same date, information having been received of Edward's equipment of ships in Holland, Warwick, who had resumed his captaincy of Calais, sent Sir Walter there as his Deputy. Wenlock had proved untrustworthy upon a former occasion, and what made the custody of the fortress a question of more than ordinary importance at this date was a clause in the secret treaty between Queen Margaret and the King of France, by which it had been stipulated that the cession of the fortress to the French should form the price for the re-establishment of Henry VI upon the throne.

In the month of March, Edward landed at the mouth of the Humber and advanced to Nottingham, where he assumed the title of King. From Nottingham he moved to Coventry, where he was joined by the Duke of Clarence with a large body of men who now deserted the cause of Henry VI. Warwick being too weak to oppose him after the defection of Clarence, Edward was enabled to reach London without opposition. Warwick followed in his wake, and in a battle which was fought at Barnet on the 14th April, was defeated and killed.

From a military point of view, it is difficult to understand why Warwick had not moved to the west, with a view of joining his forces to those of Queen Margaret, who had sailed from France with a body of French troops. His reasons were probably political, for if he had defeated Edward with the assistance of Queen

¹ Original warrant at Coughton Court, and "Muniments of Glamorgan and Morgan" by Mr. George Clark. John Throckmorton was taken prisoner at the Battle of Tewkesbury, but his life was spared, and he subsequently received a full pardon on the 3rd June, 11 Edward IV.

Margaret and her French allies, he must have carried out the Queen's treaty with Louis XI, and this involved the cession of Calais to the French.

The Queen landed with a body of French auxiliaries at Plymouth on the same day that the Battle of Barnet was fought, and was joined there by the Lancastrian lords of the west of England. On hearing of the defeat and death of Warwick, she attempted to join the Earl of Pembroke in Wales, but the passage of the Severn was barred by Edward and his army at Tewkesbury. A battle was fought there on the 4th May, which resulted in the complete rout of the Lancastrians. Edward, the only son of Henry VI, was either killed in the pursuit, or, being taken prisoner, was put to death by Edward IV. By this victory, the Lancastrian cause was annihilated.

The position of Sir Walter at Calais, after the death of Warwick, must have been a very difficult one, but up to the date of the battle of Tewkesbury, the garrison appears to have remained faithful to the cause of the Lancastrians. The Warkworth Chronicle states:—

“And in the same tyme that the batelle of Teukesbury was, Sere Watere Wrottylsle and Geffrei Gate, Knyghts of the Erle of Warwyke (who) were governors of the towne of Caleys¹ dide sende Sere George Broke Knyghte oute of Caleys with CCC of soudjours unto Bastarde Fakynebrygge, that was on the see with the Earl of Warwyke's navy, that he shulde the navy save, and goo into Kent, and to reyse alle Kent to that entente to take Kynge Herry oute of the toure and distroye Kyng Edward, yf he myghte, which Bastarde came into Kent to Caunterbury and he withe helpe of other gentylmenne, thei reysed up alle Kent and came to Londone the v day of May the yere aforeseide. But there the Lorde Scales that Kynge Edward had lefte to kepe the cyte, with the meyre and aldermen, wulde not suffre the seid Bastarde to come into the cite for thei had understandynge that Prince Edward was dede, and alle his hoste discomfytede, wherefor the Bastarde

¹ As a security against treason, all important fortresses had two Governors appointed to them. These were placed in a quasi-independent position, one to the other, the usual plan being to give one general charge over the place, and the other the guardianship of the Keep. Sir Geoffrey Gate was probably Custodian of the Castle of Calais, which was considered the Citadel of the place. Some remnant of this custom exists in modern appointments, thus, the Tower of London has both a Constable and Lieutenant, independent of one another, both being appointed by Letters Patent; and the office of Governor of the Keep at Windsor Castle is still maintained, although the office of Constable of the Castle, formerly hereditary in the family of “de Wyndesore,” has been long abolished. In a similar way, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports is *ex officio* Constable of Dover Castle, although there was always a resident Governor within the Castle in former days.

loosede his gonnes into the Citie and brent at Algate and at Londone brygge, for the whiche brynnynge, the comons of Londone where sore wrothe and gretely movyd ayens them, for had thei not brent, the comons of the cyte wulde have leett them in, magre of the Lordes Scales hede, the mayre and alle his brethyr. Wherefor the Bastarde and alle his hoste went overe at Kyngestone Brygge x myle westwarde and had purposed to have distruyt Kyng Edward, or to dryve him oute of the londe, and if the Bastarde had holde forthe his way Kyng Edward be possibilyte could not be powere haf resisted the Bastarde, for the Bastarde had mor then xx mil goode men welle harnessede, and evere as he went, the people felle to him."

Stow's Chronicle gives a somewhat different account of these proceedings. It says:—

"About this time (*i.e.*, Easter Day, 14th April, 1471), Sir Walter Wroitle and Sir Geffery Gate Knights, Governors of Caleis sent Sir George Broke Kt. from Caleis with three hundred souldiers, to Thomas the Bastard Fauconbridge, Captaine of the Earle of Warwicke's navie, willing him to raise the County of Kent and to goe to London, there to take King Henry out of the Tower, and then to goe against King Edward.

The fourteenth day of May, Thomas the Bastard with a riotous company of shipmen and others of Essex and Kent, came to London, where being denied passage through the Citty, he set upon Bishops Gate, Aldgate, London Bridge and along the Thamys side shooting arrowes and guns into the Citty, fired the suburbs and brent more than 60 houses, wan the Bulwarkes at Aldgate, and entered the Citty, but the porteclose being let downe, such as had entred were slaine, and then the citizens pursued the rest so far as Stratford and Blackwall slaying many and tooke many prisoners. Thomas the Bastard went from London westward as far as Kingstone uppon Thames, to prosecute King Edward, but the Lord Scales with Nicholas Faunt maior of London by faire words caused Fauconbridge to return to Blackheath in Kent from whence in the night he stole from the hoste with 600 horsemen to Rochester, and so to Sandwich, where he abode the King coming."

The King arrived in London on the 21st May, and the following extracts from the Rolls of the Pell shew the negotiations which took place between him and the Bastard, the object of the King being to obtain possession of the Fleet.

Richemundo Heraldo et Thome Grey armigero missis per Regem versus Thomam Bastardum Fauconberge 40/s.

Thomas Grey was the King's stepson, but at this date he was only nineteen years of age; later on we find:—

Roberto Baxster misso per Comitem Ryvers in certis negotiis Regis versus Bastardum Fauconberge in comitatu existentem 10/s.

The Bastard, however, still held out, and we find lower down on the Roll:—

Magistro Henrico Cokke misso per avisamentum consilii Regis cum quadam litera domini Cardinalis Archiepiscopi Cantuariensis, Thome Bastardo Fauconberge 6s. 8d.

The fact was, the Bastard distrusted the King, who had proved false on previous occasions, and he would accept no assurances from agents who could be subsequently disavowed. On the receipt, however, of the letter from the Cardinal, containing a promise of pardon for himself and his men, Fauconbridge disbanded his army and delivered up the Fleet. His pardon is dated 10th June, 11 Edward IV (1471).¹

It now only remained to Sir Walter to obtain the best terms he could for himself and the garrison of Calais, but his situation was extremely critical. Hastings was lying outside the harbour with the King's fleet and 1,500 soldiers, with orders to occupy the town; under such circumstances, there must have been many men under his command who would be ready to throw their leaders over and make the best terms they could for themselves.² Fortunately for Sir Walter at this juncture, there was a very general distrust of the King's good faith, for on previous occasions he had beheaded Lord Welles and others after granting them letters of safe conduct. Sir Walter was able therefore to preserve a semblance of unanimity amongst the garrison, but his difficulties were increased by the action of Louis XI, who was bidding high for the surrender of the place to the French. Philip de Comines, the minister of Louis, speaking of Calais at this date, says in his memoirs:—"Cette place est la plus grand tresor d'Angleterre, et la plus belle capitainière du monde, a mon avis, au moins de la Chrestienté, ce que je scay parceque j'y fus plusieurs fois durand ces differends et pour certain me fut dit par le temps dont j'ay parlé par le maire de l'Esteppe de toiles, que de la capitainière de Calais

¹ Rot. Pat., 11 Edward IV, Part 1.

² I suspect there was some double dealing on the part of one member at least of the garrison of Calais, for amongst the Privy Seal Writs there is one dated 19th July, 11 Edward IV (1471), appointing Richard Whetehull, Armiger, Lieutenant of the Castle of Guysne, in Picardy, but to take his orders from William, Lord Hastings, *Lieutenant of the Marches*. At this date Lord Hastings was not in possession of Calais. Richard Whetehill was afterwards in high favour with the King, and on the 14th April, 13 Edward IV, obtained a license to embattle his manor house of Boughton, co. Northampton.

feroit donner au Roi d'Angleterre quinze mille escus de ferme, car ce capitaine prenoit tous le profit de ce qu'ils ont de ea la mer, et des saufs conduits, et met la pluspart de la garnison a sa poste."

A hint of the delicate nature of the negotiations is conveyed by the following entry on the Pell Issues of this year :—

Cuidam Fratri nuper venienti ab villa Calesie cum secretis negotiis, 20/s.

After a parley extending over a period of six weeks. the final result was a full pardon for the garrison issued under the Great Seal on the 6th August. The Letters Patent of this date state that the King pardoned and remitted by his special grace, and by the advice of his Council, to Walter Wrattesley, Geoffrey Gate, John Benstede, John Bromley, George Bissipate, Knights, to John Lord Clynton, George Neville, Thomas Gray,¹ Richard Whetehylle, John Curtenay, Roland Worsley, Thomas Radclyff, Robert Warmyngton, John Partruit and William Boyville, Esquires, to Richard Ronchede, John Parker, Antony de la Toure, and to all burgesses, merchants, soldiers and mariners within the town and Castle of Calais. the Tower of Ruysbanke, the Castle and demesne of Guynes, and the marches, to each of them, and to their servants, agents, and attorneys, all manner of transgressions, offences, and impeachments, treasons, felonies, murders, robberies, insurrections, rebellions, conspiracies, etc., howsoever done or perpetrated by them before the date of the present letters, whether they or any of them had been indicted, impeached, convicted, arraigned, or attainted of any of the said offences, likewise all fines, debts, forfeitures, or any judgment of penalty of death or other penalty adjudicated against them, likewise all wrecks of the sea, forfeitures of lands, rents, tenements, or goods and chattels incurred by any of them before the above date; and the King further conceded that everyone of the aforesaid persons shall hold and enjoy all lands, tenements, offices, fee farm rents, etc., held by the King's gift, or by Letters Patent, and of which he was seised or in possession in fee, or for term of life, or for term of years, on the 3rd March, in the eighth year of his reign, and shall enter into the same without impeachment by him or by his heirs, ministers or eschaetors, excepting and reserving all offices within the town and castles of Calais and Guysnes, and Tower of Ruysbanke, and the marches, conferred by the

¹ This must be the Thomas Gray of Groby mentioned in the proclamation of 1470.

King, or by any of the Governors of Calais, before the date of these letters, and excepting all lands, offices, tenements, rents and fees which any of the aforesaid persons may hold by the King's gift, or by Letters Patent, which have been cancelled, etc.; after which follows a proviso that before the Christmas Day following, the Treasurer of the vill of Calais and the marches should cause to be drawn up and enrolled separate Letters of Pardon, under the Great Seal, for each of the said burgesses, merchants, soldiers and mariners in their own names, and deliver them to each without taking any fee for the same.¹

In accordance with this proviso, separate pardons for all those abovenamed appear on the second part of the Patent Roll of 11 Edward IV, m. 29. Sir Walter Wrottesley is described in his pardon, which is dated 9th August, as:—

Walter Wrattyslay of the vill of Calais, Kt., *alias* Walter Wrattislay, merchant of the Staple, Kt., *alias* Walter Wrattislay, late of Wrattislay, co. Stafford, Knight, *alias* Walter Wratisslay, late of London, Kt., *alias* Walter Wrottisley, late of London. Kt.

Sir Geoffrey Gate is described as:—

Geoffrey Gate, Kt., of the vill of Calais, *alias* Geoffrey Gate, Kt., Marshal of the vill of Calais, *alias* Geoffrey Gate, Kt., merchant of the Staple,² *alias* Geoffrey Gate, Kt., late of Garnettes, co. Essex, and late of Highester, co. Essex, late of Halton, co. Oxon, late Lieutenant of Carisbroke Castle, Isle of Wight, late of Beauchamp Redying, co. Essex.

Lord Clynton is described in his pardon as:

John Clynton of the vill of Calais, Lord Clynton and Say, *alias* John Clynton, lord of Clynton, *alias* John Clynton of Folkestone, co. Kent.

Sir John Bromley is described as:—

John Bromlay of the vill of Calais, Kt., late of Badyngton, co. Chester.

George Neville is called:—

George Neville, late of Calais, souldour, *alias* George Neville armiger, *alias* George Neville of Carlylle, co. Cumberland.

Roland Worsley is described as late of Calais, *alias* Roland Worsley, Lieutenant of the Tower of Ruysbanque, gentleman.

Sir George Bisipate is described as *soldarius* of Calais, *alias* George Bisipate, late of the City of Constantinople, *alias* George Bisipate, a Greke.

¹ Rot. Pat., 11 Edward IV, Part 1, m. 14.

² Sir Walter Wrottesley and Sir Geoffrey Gate were probably merchants of the Staple, *ex officio*, for the cost of the garrison was a first charge on the Customs of Calais.

William Boyvylye is called armiger, late of co. Rutland.

William Worsley is described as Alderman and Burgess of Calais, and late Mayor of Calais.

Richard Whetehull is described as armiger, Lieutenant of the Castle of Guysnes, *alias* Mayor of the vill of Calais, *alias* "Soldarius" of the vill of Calais, *alais* Controller (contrarotulator) of the vill of Calais and the Marches, *alias* Richard Whetehull, late of Barton Pyneanye, co. Northampton.

Adrian Whetehull is described as of the vill of Calais, armiger, *alias* Controller of the vill of Calais and the Marches, *alias* soldarius of the Castle of Guysnes, *alias* Adrian, son of Richard Whetehull, armiger.

John Courtenay is called armiger, *alias* John Courtenay, Captain of the Ports (Magister Portitorum) of the vill of Calais, *alias* soldarius, *alias* merchant of the Staple, *alias* of Powdram, co. Devon, son of Philip Courtenay, Kt., late of Powdram.

Robert Ottur is described as of Alspath,¹ *alias* Robert Ottur, gentilman, *alias* Robert Otour of Calais, souldcour, *alias* Robert Ottur of Ulleskyll, co. York, gentilman.

All the others are described in similar precise terms with numerous aliases.

On the receipt of these pardons Calais was surrendered into the hands of Lord Hastings, who had been sent with a force of 1,500 men to summon it. The issues of the Pell of Easter, 11 Edward IV, have the following entries respecting this transaction.

Willelmo domino Hastyng fideli et predilecto consiliario ac Camarario Regis quem idem dominus Rex nuper appunctuavit ad transfretandum ultra mare cum xvc hominibus in comitiva sua versus villam Calesie ad recipiendum dictam villam et castrum ac Turrim de Ruysbank ad usum ipsius domini Regis in denariis sibi liberatis xxiii^{li} xvi^s

The Tellers' Roll of Michaelmas, 11 Edward IV, has a payment of £66 10s. 0d. to John Cole for wages for 373 mariners for the passage of Lord Hastings from Sandwich to Calais, with 13 defensible ships, and victuals for 1,500 soldiers, by a writ of privy seal of last Easter term.²

Lord Hastyngs must have left Sandwich very shortly after the fleet had been handed over by Fauconbridge in June, but Calais does not appear to have been surrendered before the following September, for one of the Paston letters

¹ Alspath in co. Warwick, now called Meriden. The unfortunate Richard Clapham, the Squire of the Earl of Warwick, hanged at Southampton, was Lord of Alspath.

² The Easter term on the Pell Rolls would comprise the period between Easter and Michaelmas.

under date of 15th September 1471, states "the lords Hastynges and Howard be in Caleys and have it pesebely and Sir Walter Wrottesle and Sir Geoffrey Gate be comyn thence, and will be in London thys daye, as it is seyde, wretyn at Waltham besyde Winchester the daye nex Holy Roode daye."

The cause of the delay in surrendering Calais no doubt arose from doubts of the sincerity of the King's promise of pardon, and the consequent necessity of waiting till the pardons had been actually received. It must, however, have been a source of irritation to the King, who required Lord Hastings in England, and by a writ of Privy Seal, dated from Windsor 19th July 11 Edward IV. he ordered John Lord Howard to take over the Governorship of Calais on the death of, or surrender of it by William Lord Hastynges, who had been appointed to that office for a term of ten years.¹

I suspect Fauconbridge had some hand in the delay of the surrender, and that his correspondence with the garrison of Calais had been intercepted, for on the 11th September an order was issued to arrest him wherever he might be found.² He was shortly afterwards taken and beheaded, notwithstanding his charter of pardon of the previous June, his treason being considered of later date.

On Sir Walter's arrival in England he found himself a defendant in an action brought against him and other members of the household of the Earl of Warwick for an onslaught made on Edmund Grey, Earl of Kent during the late troubles. The proceedings in Banco of Michaelmas term 11 Edward IV, state that Edmund, Earl of Kent, sued Walter Wrottesley, late of Wrottesley, co. Stafford, Kt., Edward Grey, late of Asteley, co. Warwick, Kt., Geoffrey Gate, late of Casebrok (Carisbroke), Isle of Wight, Kt., Robert Skerne, late of Kyngstone-upon-Thames, Gentilman, and John Typper, late of Asteley, yeoman, for taking *vi et armis*, armed with swords, daggers, etc., his goods and chattels in London to the value of £1,000. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain the said Walter, who had found bail, and to arrest the others, and produce them on the Quindene of St. Martin. At the latter date, the defendants failed again to appear, and the Sheriff returned 2s. into Court as the proceeds of a distraint upon Sir Walter. He was therefore ordered to distrain again upon Sir Walter and to arrest the others and

¹ Privy Seal Writs, 19th July, 11 Edward IV

² Rot. Pat. 11 Edward IV.

produce them in Court on the Octaves of St. Hillary.¹ There is no further notice of this suit. The pardons granted to Sir Walter Wroottesley and to Sir Geoffrey Gate on their delivering up Calais in the previous August would have covered their delinquencies in this case.

There is reason to believe that Sir Walter must have been arrested very shortly after he had set foot in England, for on the 3rd October he executed a general power of attorney constituting his wife Jane and two others to act for him in all matters and with power to receive rents. etc., and to sue for debts.² It is unusual to include a wife's name in a power of attorney unless the person who executes it expects to be separated from his wife for a length of time, and I conclude, therefore, that at this date Sir Walter was in prison or had fled the country. Nothing more has been found respecting his movements between this period and the date of his death, which occurred on the 10th April 1473.³ In the Commission of the Peace for Staffordshire of the 2nd July, 12 Edward IV, his name no longer appears, nor was he named in a Commission of Array for the county dated 12th March in the same regnal year.⁴ He was buried in the church of the Grey Friars in London, and this church was the usual place of sepulture for the inmates of the Fleet and Newgate Prisons.

The Register of the Sepulchral Inscriptions existing temp. Henry VIII in the Church of the Grey Friars, London, has the following:—

In capella Sancti Francisci sub magno lapide jacet.

Dominus Walterus Wroottesley miles, strenuus in armis cum Comite Warwici, qui obiit 10 die mensis Aprilis A.D. 1473.⁵

Five months afterwards, viz., on the 24th August, 13 Edward IV, the King being then at Lichfield, issued a writ of "*diem clausit extremum*" addressed to Humfrey Blount, Kt., Nicholas Leveson and the Sheriff of co. Worcester, commanding them to make a return of the lands and tenements, etc., which had been held by Sir Walter Wroottesley, when he died, together with the usual particulars respecting

¹ De Banco Roll, Mich. 11 Edward IV, m. 239 and 465 dorso.

² Original deed at Wroottesley, copied 1860-62.

³ Inq. p.m. 13 Edward IV, No. 23.

⁴ Rot. Pat., 13 Edward IV, Part 1.

⁵ Cottonian MS., Vitellius F. xii. These sepulchral inscriptions are printed in the Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica, vol. v, but with some inaccuracies. For the words "*cum Comite Warwici*" has been substituted "*in Comitatu Warwici*," which is nonsense. The monuments in the Grey Friars were pulled down, and the materials sold by Sir Martin Bowes, Lord Mayor of London, in 1545 (Stow's London).

the heir, etc. No return to this writ is extant, and another writ was issued on the 2nd September to John Elyngton, armiger (the Treasurer of the King's Household and Clerk of the Hanaper), and to Thomas Stidolf and the Sheriff of co. Stafford to return the same particulars respecting the lands, etc., of Sir Walter, in co. Stafford. The return to this writ is in existence and states that an Inquisition was taken at Burton-upon-Trent, in co. Stafford, on the 6th September, 13 Edward IV, before John Elyngton, armiger, Thomas Stidolf, and the Sheriff, Commissioners appointed by virtue of a Commission directed to them, and on the oath of John Pauntun, Thomas Blounte, John Myles, William Walker, Ralph Bold, William Jerves, Henry Cowper, William Stephens, William Leche, John Heage, William Gilbert, and Thomas Toke, who stated that Walter Wrottesley, Kt., named in the said Commission was seized in his demesne as of fee tail on the day he died of the manor or demesne of Hundesworth in the said County, and that the said manor was held of the King in capite by Knights' service, and that it was worth, beyond reprises, £28 per annum. They also said that the same Walter was seized in demesne as of fee tail on the day he died, of the manors or demesnes of Clent and Mere in the same County, which were held of the King in capite, and that the said manors were worth £20 per annum beyond reprises, and that the said Walter died on the 10th day of April last, and that Richard the son of the said Walter was his nearest heir and was sixteen years of age.

No Inquisition for the manors held by him in co. Dorset is extant.

Sir Walter married sometime about 1456, Jane, the daughter of William Baron, Esq., of Reading, one of the Tellers of the Exchequer, whose acquaintance he had probably made when in attendance at the Exchequer, with his "*proffrum*," as Sheriff of co. Worcester. William Baron was the head of an ancient family which had been settled for many years in Berkshire, and as Jane was eventually sole heiress of this family, and their arms have been quartered with those of Wrottesley ever since the fifteenth century, it is proposed to give a short account of them.

The first of the family I have met with is a William Baroun, of Maidenhethe (Maidenhead), who occurs as defendant in some proceedings of Easter 13 Edward II, on the Coram Rege Roll, in which he was indicted with four others for a trespass committed *vi et armis* against the servants of Hugh le Despencer, the younger, in Berkshire.

A later William Baron, of Reading, died in 1416, and was

buried in St. Mary's Church in that town,¹ where his tomb existed in Ashmole's time. In 9 Henry VI another William Baron was member of Parliament for the borough of Reading, and is doubtless identical with the William Baron, armiger, who is returned amongst the gentry of co. Berks bearing arms from their ancestors, by the Commissioners to administer the oaths of allegiance in 12 Henry VI (1434).² In 2 Edward IV, William Baron, armiger, of London, one of the Receivers of the Exchequer, and late fermor of Whitchurch, co. Oxon, obtained a general pardon, with an exoneration from all claims of the Crown up to the previous 4th November.³

In the same year he was paid a reward for receiving and sending off to the north a sum of £2,000 which had been found by the Mayor and citizens of London for the expenses of the war,⁴ and in the following year he received a special gift of £20⁵ from the King for the labour and expenses of his office. At Easter, 6 Edward IV, he received another gift from the King of £13.⁶

These gifts were given in augmentation of his salary, which was at the rate of 8d. a day or £32 a year, a sum which would be probably equivalent to about £1,000 a year at the present day.

The latest notice of William Baron I have met with is on the Roll of the Issues of the Pell, of Easter, 9 Edward IV, A.D. 1469, at which date the four Tellers of the Exchequer were William Baron, Thomas Pounde, Robert Martyn, and John Rogger.

By Jane, the daughter and heiress of William Baron, Sir Walter left four sons—Richard, William, Walter, and Henry—and five daughters—Jane, Thomasine, Anne, Margaret, and Parnell or Petronell. Richard succeeded Sir Walter as his heir. William succeeded to the greater part of his mother's property in Berkshire, and was placed in the Household of Henry VII on the accession of that monarch, as one of the Esquires of the King's Body. His will was proved 4th February 1512. Henry was a Fellow of New College, Oxford, and appears to have died young in 1486. Walter is only known by his will, which is preserved in the Prebendary Court. He died in 1502.

Jane married Richard Cresset of Upnor Cresset, co. Salop,⁷

¹ Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, vol. ii, p. 349.

² Fuller's *Worthies*.

³ Pardon Roll, 1 to 6 Edward IV.

⁴ Pell Issues, Easter 2 Edward IV.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Easter 3 Edward IV.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Easter 6 Edward IV.

⁷ Deed at Wrottesley.

Thomasine married William, Lord Stourton, but left no issue.¹ Anne married Sir Anthony St. Amand, who claimed to be Lord St. Amand, but there are doubts about his legitimacy.² Margaret married Sir John Scrope of Castle Combe,³ who was one of the Knights of the Bath made on the marriage of Prince Arthur in 17 Henry VII. By Margaret, Sir John left a numerous family. Parnell or Petronilla, the fifth daughter, became a nun at Dartford.⁴ The Bodleian Library contains the following contemporary notice of her in a book which formerly belonged to the nunnery:—

“Thes booke in whom is contente dyvers devowte tretis and speccally the tretis that is called ‘Ars moriendi,’ ys of the gifte of Wylliam Baron Esquyer, to remaine for evyr to the place and nonrye of Dertforde, and speccully to the use of dame Pernelle Wrattisley sister of the same place by license of her Abbas, the whiche Pernelle is nece to the forseyde gentylman William Baron.”⁵

At the beginning of the MS. are the arms of Knollys quartering Baron, viz.—gules, a chevron embowed azure between three garbs or,—and a pedigree showing that William Baron married Joan the daughter of Thomas Knollys of North Mimms. This Thomas Knollys was grandson of another Thomas Knollys, who was twice Lord Mayor of London, and died in 1445.

Besides these daughters the old parchment pedigree at Wrottesley mentioned a daughter Alice, married to Lord Scrope of Upsall. There is no other authority for this marriage, but it derives some confirmation from a clause in Walter Wrottesley’s will, in which he left a legacy to “my lord Zowehe” (de la Zouche), the latter being a near relation of the Scropes of Upsall.

I think it probable that Sir Walter was a Knight of the Garter, for amongst the muniments formerly preserved at Wrottesley was an original vellum copy of the Statutes of the Garter of this period, and Anstis shews that the succession to many of the Stalls during the reign of Edward IV has never been ascertained. In fact between the years 7 to 12 Edward IV there is a complete chasm.⁶

¹ History of the Family of Stourton, Heralds’ Visitations, and wills of William Wrottesley and Walter Wrottesley.

² Deed at Wrottesley, and wills of William Wrottesley and Walter Wrottesley.

³ Will of William Wrottesley, and “History of Castle Combe,” privately printed.

⁴ Old parchment pedigree at Wrottesley, and Douce MS., Bodleian Library.

⁵ Bodleian MS., Douce MS., 322, ex. inf., Falconer Madan, Esq., Sub-librarian. Niece is here used for granddaughter, which was frequently the case in old days.

⁶ These Statutes were contained on an ancient Roll of Parchment about one foot wide, and being undated, were always supposed by the family to be the original Statutes supplied to Sir Hugh de Wrottesley, K.G., in 1348. Somewhere about the year 1861, I happened to mention to Sir Charles Young,

The following deeds formerly at Wrottesley belong to the epoch of Sir Walter Wrottesley.

Edwardus dei gratia Rex Anglie et Francie et Dominus Hibernie, omnibus ad quos presentes litere pervenerint, salutem. Sciatis quod nos de gratia nostra speciali ex mero motu et certa sciencia nostris ac consideratione boni et gratuiti servitii quod dilectus et fidelis noster Walterus de Wrottesley miles nobis ante hec tempora impendit, Dedimus et concessimus ac per presentes damus et concedimus eidem Waltero maneria sive dominica de Mere, Clynt alias dictum Clent et Hondesworth cum pertinentiis, necnon advocaciones ecclesiarum de Hondesworth predicti et Forton in comitatu Staffordie; ac etiam maneria de Ramisham alias dictum Rammesham et Poundeknolle alias dictum Penpole cum pertinentiis ac advocacionem ecclesie de Ramisham alias dictum Rammesham predicti in Comitatu Dorset, cum feodis militum, parcis, warennis, franchisesiis, libertatibus, curiis, visibus franciplegii, piscariis, et omnibus aliis libertatibus, proficiis et emolumentis predictis maneriis ac eorum cuilibet seu eorum alieni quovismodo spectantibus sive pertinentibus que nuper fuerunt Jacobi nuper Comitis Wiltes Rebellis nostri de altis prodicionibus attincti virtute ejusdam actus parlamenti in parlamento nostro apud Westmonasterium quarto die Novembris anno regni nostri primo tento, edito, et ad manus nostras ea occasione devenerunt seu devenire debuerunt. Habenda et tenenda predicta maneria, advocaciones, et cetera premissa, cum pertinentiis eidem Waltero et heredibus suis masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis imperpetuum de nobis

then Garter King of Arms, the existence of these Statutes at Wrottesley. This information caused much excitement at the College of Arms, for no copy of the Statutes earlier than the reign of Henry V was known to exist, and it was thought possible that we might be in possession of a copy of the original Statutes of Edward III. It was therefore arranged that my father should bring the Statutes to London, and that they should be examined by Sir Thomas Duffus Hardy, who was then Deputy Keeper of the Records, and the most experienced paleographer of his day. The meeting took place at the Rolls Office in Chancery Lane, and Sir Thomas, after examining the Roll, stated, without hesitation, that the handwriting was not earlier than Henry VI or Edward IV, and he asked whether another member of the family had not been a Knight of the Garter during one of these reigns. Sir Charles Young on examining the Roll agreed with Sir Thomas Hardy and shewed that the Statutes were the same *verbatim* as those of Henry V, a copy of which he had brought with him for comparison. The Statutes were in French and the names of the original Knights of the Garter on the Wrottesley Roll were entered as below.

Le Prince de Galles.	Monsire Johan de Grey.
Le Duc de Lancastre.	„ Richard Fitz Simon.
Le Comte de Warwick.	„ Miles de Stapelton.
Le Captal de Buch.	„ Thomas Wale.
Le Conte de Stafford.	„ Hugh de Wrottesley.
Le Comte de Salesburi.	„ Neal Loryng.
Le Sire de Mortimer.	„ Johan Chandos.
Le Sire Jehan Lisle.	„ James Daudley.
Monsire Barthelemi Burghersh.	„ Otho Holland.
Monsire Johan de Beauchamp.	„ Henry Eam.
Le Sire de Mohun.	„ Sanchet Daprichecourt.
Monsire Hugh de Courtenay.	„ Walter Pavele.
„ Thomas Holland.	

et heredibus nostris pro serviciis, tot feoda militum, ac tot et tanta alia redditus et serviciis pro que ante primum diem Martii anno regni nostri primo de progenitoribus seu predecessoribus nostris aut eorum aliquo aut alia persona seu aliis personis quibuscunque separatim tenebantur: Et ulterius per presentes concedimus eidem Waltero, exitus, proficua, et emolumenta omnium dictorum maneriorum et ceterorum premissorum habenda et percipienda eidem Waltero a sexto die Januarii anno regni nostri secundo per manus firmariorum, receptorum, sive aliorum occupatorum eorundem absque aliquo compoto sive aliquo inde nobis vel heredibus nostris solvendo, faciendo sive reddendo. Et ulterius perdonavimus remisimus et relaxavimus eidem Waltero omnimoda debita, compota, prestita, arreragia, actiones et demanda que nos vel heredes nostri ratione premissorum aliquo modo versus eundem Walterum ante tertium decimum diem martii ultimo preteritum habere poterimus seu debuissimus ac omnimodas intrusiones, transgressiones, sive impetitiones per ipsum Walterum factas in premissis seu aliquo premissorum eo quod expressa mentio de vero valore annuo aut de aliquo alio valore premissorum facta in presentibus non existit, aut aliquo statuto, actu, ordinatione seu provisione incontrarium facto, edito seu proviso aut aliqua alia re, causa vel materia quacunque non obstante. In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium vicesimo octavo die Februarii anno regni nostri quinto (28 February, 1466).¹

Great Seal of England in dark green wax and in fine preservation.

Sciant presentes et futuri, quod ego Walterus Wrottesley, miles, dominus de Perton dedi concessi, et hac carta mea confirmavi, Willelmo Cockys de Patyngnam tres srostos (*sic*) terre cum pertinentiis suis jacentes infra dominium de Perton, etc. Hiis testibus Ricardo Clemson, etc. Data apud Perton predictum die Martis proximo ante festum Sancte Petronille Virginis anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum Anglie nono (May, 1469).²

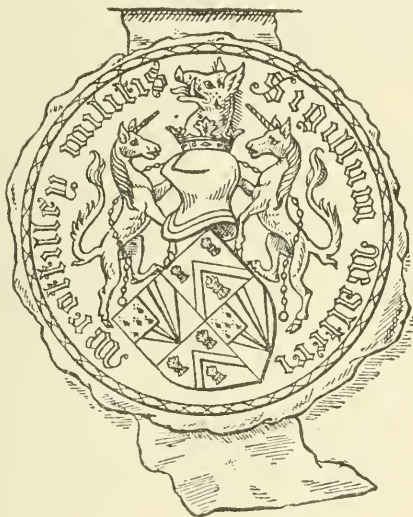
Seal destroyed.

Universis et singulis presentem documentum visuris lecturis vel audituris Walterus Wrottesley miles, Salutem in domino sempiternam. Noverit universitas vestra me prefatum Walterum fecisse, ordinasse, posuisse et loco meo et pro me constituisse dilectos mihi in Xpo Johannam uxorem meam carissimam, Johannem Yonge et Johannem Hopton generosos, meos veros legitimos et indubitatos attornatos

¹ Original Letters Patent at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

(Here follow full powers to receive all rents, to sue for debts, to carry on all suits, etc., and a clause exonerating them from all personal liability for the same). Ratum et gratum habiturum quidquid predicti attornati et eorum quilibet nomine nostro (*sic*) fecerint vel fecerit in premissis. In quorum omnium singulorum fidem et testimonium sigillum meum armorum presentibus apposui. Datum tertio die mensis Octobris anno regni Regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum undecimo (3 Octob., 1471).¹



Seal of red wax, in very fine preservation.

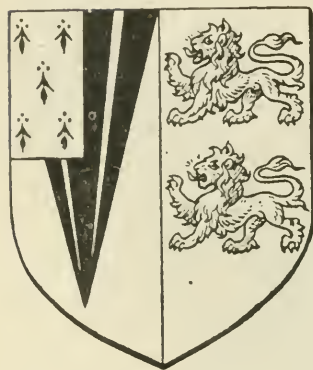
ARMS OF SIR WALTER WROTTESLEY.

Quarterly—Or three piles Sable, a quarter Ermine—for Wroottesley ; and Gules, a chevron Azure, between three garbs Or—for Baron of Reading.²

¹ Original deed at Wroottesley, copied 1860-62.

² See a note on the Baron Arms by the late Mr. Sidney Grazebrook, amongst his notes upon Glover's Visitation of Staffordshire of 1583, printed in vol. iii of Staffordshire Collections, p. 152. The arms of Baron are emblazoned as above in both the Staffordshire Visitations of 1583 and 1614, and there is no doubt that this was the original blazon. The Herald's of a later era, however, when they attempted to make an exact science of Heraldry, laid down a rule that colour should not be borne on colour, and they changed the Baron chevron into one "composé Or and Azure"; but the seal of Sir Walter Wroottesley shews a plain chevron, and as the garbs must be gold, it is clear that the original coat must have displayed colour upon colour, as stated in the Douce MS. and the Herald's Visitations of 1583 and 1614.

RICHARD WROTTESELEY, A.D. 1478—1521.



According to the Inquisition taken on the death of Sir Walter Wrottesley, his eldest son Richard was aged sixteen in 1473. He would, therefore, come of age in 1478. As his father was a tenant in capite, the wardship and marriage of the heir would fall to the Crown; but as regards the latter, it was usual at this period to forestall the rights of the Crown or other superior lord, by marrying the heir during the lifetime of the owner of the fee, and Richard appears to have been married

whilst under age to Dorothy, the daughter of Sir Edmund Sutton. Sir Edmund was the eldest son of John, Lord Dudley, who had been one of the staunchest supporters of the Yorkist cause, and it is not unlikely that this alliance had some influence in saving the life of Sir Walter Wrottesley in 1471. He was a man of some note in his day, and in 1470 was acting as Lieutenant of Ireland for George, Duke of Clarence. On the Close Roll of 10 Edward IV there is a writ, dated 23 March, addressed to him stating that John, Earl of Worcester, had been substituted for George, Duke of Clarence, as Lieutenant of Ireland, the said Duke having been deprived of the office owing to his "grete and haynous offences lately committed." Sir Edmund predeceased his father, but was alive as late as 1483, for he was present at the coronation of Richard III, which took place in July of that year.¹

Richard is shewn to be the son of Sir Walter Wrottesley, by the deeds formerly at Wrottesley, by the Inquisition on his father's death, by another Inquisition on the death of his grandmother Thomasine, and the suits of 1 Richard III and 16 Henry VII respecting the Arderne estates.² He doubtless derived his baptismal name from Richard, Earl of Warwick, the King Maker.

He seems to have been brought up in the Priory of St. Mary of Mount Carmel, in Coventry, for there was formerly at Wrottesley a parchment certificate by Thomas, the Prior, granting to Richard Wrattysle "*propter devotionem sinceram quam ad nostram habetis ordinem*," the blessing of the Fraternity, and that the same prayers shall be said after his

¹ Grazebrook's "History of the Dudley Family," vol. ix of Staffordshire Collections, p. 78.

² Chester Pleas, 22 Edward IV, m. 36; 16 Henry VII, m. 19.

death as after the death of any of the Brethren of the Convent. This grant was dated in 1477, when Richard was twenty years of age, and was apparently handed to him on leaving the monastery.

As his grandmother Thomasine had been jointly enfeoffed with her husband Hugh Wrottesley in the manors of Wrottesley and Butterton, Richard could not enter into possession of his Staffordshire estates till after the death of Thomasine, which occurred on Christmas Day 1480; and on this event taking place his mother Jane, who had in the meantime remarried Sir Richard Darrell, of Littlecote, claimed possession of the manors under the deed of 1463.

Richard Wrottesley's claim would be probably based upon the first settlement of 1441, and the dispute would have led to a long and disastrous law suit, if it had not been terminated by arbitration. At this date Richard had amongst his near neighbours Sir Thomas Littleton, one of the Justices of the King's Bench, and the famous author of the "Tenures," who had married the widow of Sir Philip Chetwynd, of Ingestre, and both parties consented to abide by the decision of Sir Thomas, and one of his colleagues, Sir Richard Chokke.¹ The award of the arbitrators is dated the 31st May, 21 Edward IV (1481), and was the earliest English deed amongst those formerly at Wrottesley. By the terms of it Sir Richard Darell and Jane were to release by deed to Richard Wrottesley all their right in the manors of Wrottesley and Butterton, and all other lands and tenements in Wrottesley, Butterton, Tettenhall and Codsall, which were sometime in the possession of Walter Wrottesley or Hugh Wrottesley, father of the said Walter, for which the said Richard Wrottesley should grant to Sir Richard Darell and Dame Jane, his wife, an annual rent of £5 to be paid at two terms of the year, "that is to say the one half on St. Martyn's day after all halowmesse at the Rode of the North dore in Paules in London bitwene one of the Clok at afternones and four of the klok of the same day than next ensuyng, and the other half in the same place the Saturday next after the Assencion day bitwene one of the klok at afternone and five of the klok of the same day than next following," such payment to endure pending the life of the said Dame Jane, and with power to levy a distress for the same, if it should be in arrear. For further surety Richard Wrottesley was to enfeoff in the manor of Wrottesley the said Thomas Lyttelton, Richard Lyttelton, John Brown, William Wrottesley,

¹ Richard Chokke, Kt., one of the Justices of the Bench, and Margaret, his wife, late wife of William Giffard, Armiger, executrix of the will of William Giffard, obtained a pardon for all offences and claims on the part of the Crown. Dated 20th January, 9 Edward IV (Pardon Roll).

and William Wylkys, "to the intent that they shall be and stonde feoffes of the said manour with the appurtenants duryng the lyf of the same dame Jane for the contentacion of the said annuytie."¹

In pursuance of this award Richard Darell, Kt., and Jane, his wife, late wife of Walter Wrottesley, Kt., conveyed to Richard Wrottesley, Armiger, son and heir of the said Walter, the manors of Wrottesley and Butterson, and all the other lands named in the award, by a deed dated 22nd May 21 Edward IV (1481).² and on the following 20th June Richard, by his deed, enfeoffed Thomas Littelton, Kt., Richard Littelton, John Broun, William Wrottesley, and William Wylkes, in the manor of Wrottesley.

The five manors which had been granted by Edward IV to Sir Walter Wrottesley were resumed by the Crown after Sir Walter's death under the provisions of an Act of Parliament passed on the 6th October 13 Edward IV (1473). By this Statute the King was empowered to resume all grants made later than the 4th March 1 Edward IV, and it likewise vested in the King all the property of persons subsequently attainted. Under this Act of Parliament the claims of Sir Walter's widow and children were ignored, for on the 10th October in the following year the King granted to Humfrey Stafford, Armiger, of Grafton, and to his heirs, the manors of Clent, Honnesworth and Meere, which had lately belonged to James Ormond (*sic*), formerly Earl of Wilts, and which had come into his hands by the attainder of the said James.³

The two Dorsetshire manors, Rampisham and Penpole, with upwards of one hundred others, had been granted by the King to his brother, the "false fleeting perjured Clarence," as a reward for his treachery in 1471.

Having established his claim to the manors of Wrottesley and Butterson, Richard next endeavoured, in conjunction with Robert Legh, of Adlington, to obtain possession of the Arderne estates in Cheshire. Their first writ was issued in 22 Edward IV, but before the case could be argued in Court, the death of the King obliged them to renew their suit by a second writ. The cause came on for hearing at the Pleas of Trinity term 1 Richard III, before Thomas, Lord Stanley, Kt., Justice of Cheshire, and is recorded as follows :—

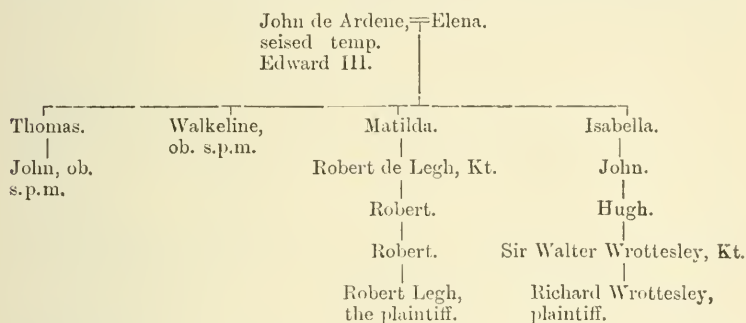
Cestria.—Robert Legh and Richard Wrottesley sued John Stanley for the manor of Aldeford, with the exception of 110 acres of land

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² *Ibid.*

³ Rot. Pat., 14 Edward IV, part 2. James, Earl of Wilts, was James Butler, Earl of Ormond and Wilts.

and pasture and 13 acres of meadow; and they sued the same John for the manor of Echeles, which Robert Hampton, Parson of the Church of Alderley, and John, son of Roger de Muntlowe, gave to John de Ardene and Elena, his wife, for the term of their lives, with remainder to Thomas de Arderne, son of the said Elena, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such to Walkeline, brother of Thomas, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such, to John de Ardene and Elena and the heirs male of their bodies, and failing such, to the heirs of the bodies of John de Ardene and Elena, and they gave this descent:—



John Stanley asked for a view, and the suit was adjourned to the Tuesday before the Feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr (July 1484), a view to be made in the interim.

On the day named the plaintiffs appeared by attorney, and John Stanley put in an essoin "*de malo veniendi*," and another day was given to the parties on the Tuesday before the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary (September 1484)¹.

The battle of Bosworth was fought on the 22nd August 1485, and the death of the King necessitated a new writ.

The suit came on again at the Pleas of Trinity term, 1 Henry VII (May 1486), when John Stanley appeared and asked for a view. The suit was again adjourned, pending a view, and does not reappear for some years. At this date the influence of the Stanleys was predominant in Cheshire, and with the many opportunities which the procedure of the period afforded for delay, it would have been hopeless to have carried on a suit in the Cheshire Courts against such an ascendancy as the family of Stanley possessed. The plea of 1 Henry VII was taken before Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby, who was the King's stepfather, and had been the principal agent in placing the King on the throne, and associated with him was George Stanley, Lord

¹ Chester Plea Rolls, No. 187 (1 to 3 Richard III), m. 9.

Lestraunge, the son of the Earl. These two were joint Justices of Cheshire. At the same date Sir William Stanley was Chamberlain of Cheshire, and the Sheriff of the county was either a Stanley or the nominee of the Stanleys. In 5/6 Henry VII the Sheriff was William Stanley, the son of the Chamberlain.

In 5 Henry VII John Stanley, anticipating a renewal of the suit, took steps by means of a collusive action to obtain a judicial title to the property; the proceedings to effect this were as follows:—In the Chester Court, Peter Warburton, Richard Norris, Edmund Bulkeley and William Tatton sued John Stanley, of Echeles, for the manors of Aldford, Alderlegh and Echeles, of which they had been seised, as of fee¹ in the present reign. John Stanley appeared and called to warranty Geoffrey Matthews, kinsman and heir of John Ardene, Kt., who appeared in Court and warranted the manors to him.

The plaintiffs then sued Geoffrey Matthews for the same manors, as tenant under the warranty, and Geoffrey made default, and a verdict was delivered in their favour.²

It will be noted that in the action of Robert Legh and Richard Wrottesley against John Stanley, no mention was made of the manor of Alderley, and it would seem as if some compromise had been made respecting this manor, for the Inquisition on Robert de Legh, the plaintiff in the suit of 10 Henry IV. who died in 3 Henry V, shews that he was in possession, when he died, of a perpetual rent of £10 proceeding from the manor of Alderley, by gift of Thomas de Stanley. The Inquisition, after naming Adlington and other lands held in capite of the Earl of Chester, states that Robert *obiit seisitus in dominico suo, ut de feodo, de decem libratis redditus sibi et heredibus suis per Thomam de Stanley concessis, percipiendis de manerio suo de Alderley.*

At this date the Wrottesley claimant was a minor, and there is no trace of any grant by the Stanleys to any member of that family.

Richard Wrottesley was included in the Commissions of the Peace for Staffordshire issued by Richard III in the first and second years of his reign. Most of the names on these Commissions are those of well known Yorkists, and the inclusion of Richard's name in them seems to shew that the temporary alienation of his father from the cause had been condoned.

¹ This would be by some previous feoffment made to them by John Stanley.

² Chester Pleas, 5 Henry VII, in. 14 dorso. Geoffrey Matthews was, of course, a mere bogus warrantor, set up by the defendant, John Stanley.

The names of most of the principal gentry of the county are conspicuous by their absence from these lists, the only names of Staffordshire landowners on them being :—

John Sutton, Lord Dudley,	Humphrey Persall,
John Blount, of Mountjoy,	Nicholas Mountgomery,
John Gresley,	Ralph Wolseley, and
Richard Wrottesley,	John Cawardyne. ¹

The first Commission of the Peace for Staffordshire issued by Henry VII, as might be expected, included a larger proportion of the gentry of the county. It is dated the 27th September, 1 Henry VII, and contains the following names :—

J. Bishop, of Coventry and Lichfield,	William Basset,
Thomas Stanley, of Stanley, Kt.,	Hugh Egerton,
John Sutton, of Duddeley, Kt.,	Richard Wrottesley,
John Gresley, Kt.,	George Stanley,
Humphrey Stanley, Kt.,	Hugh Erdeswyke,
Hugh Peshall, Kt.,	William Harper,*
Humphrey Starky, Kt.,*	Robert Hill,*
William Wilkes,*	John Blount,* and
	Thomas Tremayle.*

Those on the list marked with an asterisk were the professional Justices, whose names occur in all the Commissions issued. The two Staffordshire lords, Audley and Devereux of Chartley, had attended the coronation of Richard III. The former was therefore left out, and the latter had been killed at Bosworth.²

The Commission of the next year contains the same names, excepting Robert Hill, and with the addition of George, Earl of Shrewsbury, and Ralph Wolseley. By another Commission of 2 Henry VII, Ralph Wolseley, Richard Wrottesley, William Harpur and John Blount, or any two or three of those named (of which the said William and John were to be one), were appointed to deliver the Gaol of Stafford.

In 1490 the fee farm rent of a mark payable to the Abbey of Evesham, had been many years in arrear, and by a deed dated 12th March, 5 Henry VII, John, the Abbot, remitted to Richard Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, Armiger, all the arrears of the rent, 13s. 4d., payable yearly to the Convent, for which the said Richard assigned to the Con-

¹ Patent Rolls, 1 and 2 Richard III. Edward Grey (Viscount Lisle) and Henry Grey, of Codnor, were added to the list, but they were neither of them resident in Staffordshire, and had no interest in the county except as overlords of some of the fees. These two lords had attended the coronation of Richard III.

² John Audley, of Audley, *alias* John Tychet, Kt., obtained a pardon dated 18th November, 1 Henry VII. John Cawardine had been killed at Bosworth.

vent the bailiwick of Ambulcote, "now being or other bailiwick there for the time being where the said Richard hath an annual fee of 40s. for term of his life, to pay yerely to the said Abbot and his successors 13s. 4d." The recital to the deed, which is in English, states that the manor of Wrottesley was held of the Abbot as in the right of his Monastery by Knight's service and by the yearly rent of 13s. 4d.¹

In 7 Henry VII, A.D. 1491-92, Richard served as High Sheriff of the County, and in 12 Henry VII he was appointed one of the Commissioners for collecting the Subsidy granted by Parliament in that year. The other Commissioners were Humphrey Persall, Humfrey Swynnerton and Thomas Welles.² A contemporary copy of this Subsidy for the Seisdon Hundred of Staffordshire was amongst the muniments unfortunately destroyed by the fire at Wrottesley, and the original is not to be found in the Public Record Office.

In 16 Henry VII (1501) his eldest son Walter was married to Isabella, the daughter of John Harcourt, of Ranton. The marriage of an elder son in these days was simply a commercial transaction between two families; the parents of the bride giving a lump sum for the marriage, and the father of the bridegroom binding himself to make an allowance to the young couple and arrangements for a jointure in case the heir predeceased his father. By an indenture, dated the 12th March, 16 Henry VII (1501), and made between Richard Wrottesley, Esquire, on the one part, and Dame Margaret Harcourt and Thomas Harcourt, Esquire, on the other part, it was covenanted and agreed that "Walter Wrottesley sonne and heir apparaunt unto the said Richard shall by the grace of God, wedde and take to wyff Isabel Harcourt, doghter of John Harcourt, Esqr., on this half the Feste of Seynt Michel the Archangell next ensuying the date of this indenture, and att the reasonable request of the said Dame Marget and Thomas, and if hit so be, that the said Walter discesse by fore marriage had bitween hym and the said Isabell, as God forbidde, that then the next heir apparaunt to the said Richard schall take to wyff the said Isabell withyn a halfe yere after the discesse of the said Walter." After which follow arrangements for the jointure of Isabella, to take effect after the death of Dame Jane Darrell, and also for the jointure of Dorothy

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. If it had not been for the Abbot's claim for military service he might now have recovered possession under the Statute of "*Quare cessavit per biennium*," the rent not having been paid for two years.

² Rolls of Parliament, printed.

or any other wife which Richard Wrottesley might have. The young lady's portion was 200 marks.

By one of the covenants of this Indenture, Richard was to make, within six months, "a sure and suffieyent astate yn the law to the yerly value of 10 marks to the use and behove of the seid Water and Isabell, and the heires of the bodie of Water by the seid Isabell bigoten." This was to be effected by vesting certain lands and tenements in the names of trustees, who were to be John Beymound (Beaumont), Thomas Harcourt, John Swynnerton and William Wilkes. In pursuance of this agreement Richard enfeoffed the above trustees in 17 Henry VII in all his lands in Budeworth, Torpurley and Kelsall, in co. Chester, and a water mill in Orton, co. Stafford, called Trylmynll, and two pastures in Tettenhale,¹ and he also appeared in person in the Court of Sir John Ferrers, of Tettenhall Regis, and surrendered a messuage which had been formerly held by Walter Wyse, and all his other tenements in the Wyrges, except a water mill called Burdun's mill, to the use of John Beaumont, Thomas Harcourt, John Swynnerton, Armingers, and William Wylkes, of Wyllenhale, and their heirs and assigns.²

In the same year the Leghs and Wrottesleys revived again their claim upon the Arderne estates in Cheshire.

The case came on for hearing in April 1501. The Roll states that at the Pleas of the County of Chester, held before Thomas, Earl of Derby, and George Stanley, Kt., Lord Le Straunge, son of the said Earl, in the fifth week of Lent, 16 Henry VII, Thomas Legh and Richard Wrottesley sued John Stanley for the manor of Echeles (Etchells) and for the manor of Aldeford, excepting a messuage and twenty acres of pasture, which Robert de Hampton, Parson of the Church of Alderley, and John, son of Roger de Muntlowe, had given to John de Ardene and Elena, his wife, for the term of their lives, with remainder, etc. (as in the previous suit), and they gave the same descent from John and Elena, as in the previous suit, but the descent of the Leghs is carried down another generation from the fourth Robert Legh to Thomas Legh, the present plaintiff, who was his son. John Stanley, the defendant, pleaded that he could not answer without the King (*Rege inconsulto*), because it had been shewn by an Inquisition taken at Chester, in the Hall of Pleas (*in aula placitorum*), before William, the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, President

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² Copies of Court Rolls, formerly at Wrottesley. These shewed that Walter Wyse had surrendered his land in Tettenhall Regis to Walter Wrottesley, the father of Richard, in 31 Henry VI.

of the Prince's Council, John Arundell, the Chancellor of the Prince, Richard Croft, Kt., Robert Frost, Clerk, and Thomas Ingletfield, on the Thursday after the Feast of St. Valentine, 10 Henry VII, by virtue of a Commission addressed to them by the Prince, that William Stanley, Kt., who had been attainted of high treason, was seised on the day he was attainted, in demesne as of fee, of the third part of the Barony of Wichmalbane and other estates, and that Peter Werburton, Armiger, Richard Nories, William Tatton and Edmund Bulkeley, on the same date were seised in demesne, as of fee, of the manors of Aldeford, Echeles and Alderley, together with the advowsons of the churches of Aldeford and Alderley, to the use and profit of John Stanley, Armiger, for the term of the life of the said John, with remainder, after his death, to the use of the heirs male of the body of the said John, and failing such, to the use and profit of the said William Stanley, Kt., his heirs and assigns for ever, and as he, the said John Stanley, had no male heir of his body, the action could not proceed, unless the King was made a party to it.¹ Upon this the suit was adjourned *sine die*. John Stanley died in 1509, leaving no male issue, and as Sir William Stanley, of Holt, had been attainted, the King took possession of the manors as an eschaet of the Crown.²

In the autumn of this year, viz., on the 17th November 1501, Richard Wrottesley officiated as an Esquire to Sir John Hastings, who was made a Knight of the Bath, on the occasion of the marriage of Prince Arthur, the heir apparent, to Katherine of Aragon. The functions of the Esquires attending on a newly made Knight were far more important and onerous than would be supposed from their designation, for they acted, in fact, as his sponsors. "The manner of making Knights after the custom of England," a nearly contemporary document, gives the following account of them:—

"When an Esquire cometh into Court, to receive the order of Knighthood, there shall be ordained two worshipful Squires, wise and well nourished in courtesy, and expert in the deeds of Knighthood, and they shall be Governors to him, to serve and ordain what shall long (*sic*) to him for the time." One of their functions was to put their Esquire into the Bath, and afterwards to lead him into the King's presence, "the said Squires being at all times before him."

¹ Cheshire Pleas, 16 Henry VII, m. 19.

² Welsh and Cheshire Inquisitions p.m., 1 Henry VIII. Alderley was sold by the King to Sir William Brereton, and on his attainder it was sold to Sir Edward Fitton, who sold it, temp. Elizabeth, to Sir Thomas Stanley, whose descendants, the Stanleys of Alderley, still possess it (Ormerod's Cheshire).

After the conclusion of the ceremony, the same document informs us that, "The Governors shall go and take charity leave of their master, saying thus, 'Worshipful Sir, by the King's commaundment, we have served you, and that commandment fulfilled and performed to our power, and what we have done in our service against your reverence, we pray you of your grace to pardon us our negligence, and furthermore of the customs of the King's Court, we ask and require you of robes and fees to the term of your life, convenable to the King's Squires.'"

If such were the liabilities of a Knight at this period, it will fully account for the paucity of the names of the old county families to be found amongst the Knights of the Tudor era. Knighthood had, in fact, become the shadow of a name with many onerous and expensive conditions attached to it. The account of the marriage of Prince Arthur in the College of Arms, concludes with the statement that after "the Knights had been dubbed and girded with swords, they should have rode also that time in their royalty, but of that they were pardoned, because the weather was not clear, nor convenient, because of much wet."¹

"Happy the bride, the sun shines on," and if the old adage carries with it its converse, it received ample confirmation from the results of this ill-omened marriage.

In the following year, viz., in 17 Henry VII (1502), Richard Wrottesley served the office of High Sheriff of the County for the second time, and from this date, up to the end of the reign of Henry VII, there is nothing to record respecting him.

The first Commission of the Peace of the new reign (1509) included his name, and was addressed to the following lords, knights and gentry of the county:—

Edward, Duke of Buckingham,	Richard Wrottesley,
George, Earl of Shrewsbury,	John Welles,
Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley,	Ralph Agard,
Sir Thomas Lovell,	Robert Brudenell,
Sir Henry Vernon,	Richard Litilton,
Sir Lewis Bagot,	Roland Stafford,
Sir Gilbert Talbot,	Thomas Partriche,
Sir John Ferrers,	John Blount,
William Greville,	Richard Selman, and
John Giffard,	Thomas Blount.

By another Commission of 3 Henry VIII, the above were re-appointed, with the addition of Thomas, Marquis of Dorset,

¹ Nicholas' "Orders of British Knighthood," taken from a MS. in the College of Arms.

Sir Walter Griffith, Sir John Aston, John Egerton, Anthony FitzHerbert, Edward Grey and John Mitton.

In 8 Henry VIII (1516) he served the office of Sheriff of Staffordshire for the third time. He was now in his sixtieth year, and the state of his health obliged him to obtain the curious license under the King's Sign Manual, which follows. In his capacity of Sheriff, he might have been called upon at any moment to appear in the presence of the King. As three names were submitted in each year, his name would have first come before the King in 6 Henry VIII, which is the date of the writ.¹

HENRY R. (*the King's Sign Manual*)

Henry by the grace of god King of England and of France and Lord of Ireland. To almaner our officers justices and subgetts as well of spirituall preeminence and dignitie, as of temporall auctoritie, these our lettres hering or seing greting. Forasmoeche as we bee credibly enformed that our trusty and welbiloved Richard Wrottesley Squier for certain diseases and infirmities which he hath in his hed cannot conveniently without his grete daunger bee discovered of the same. Whereupon we in consideration therof have by these presents licenced hym to use and were his bonet on his hed from hensforth in al place and at al seasons as well in our presence as elliswhere at his libertie. Wherefor we wol and commaunde you and every of you to permitte and suffie hym so to do without any your lette, chalenge or interruption to the contrary as ye tender our pleasure. Geven under our signet at our manour of Grenewiche the iijijth daye of Marche the VI yere of our reigne.²

Stamped below with a wafer seal, about an inch in diameter, quartering France and England in black lines.

Richard must have died in 1521, for his name occurs on a Manor Roll of the 12th March 1521, and on the 6th December of the same year his son Walter paid the quit rent due to the Abbey of Evesham for the half rent ending at the previous Michaelmas. His wife Dorothy had predeceased him, having died in 1517.

His will is dated 1518. He bequeathed by it twenty

¹ The names in 8 Henry VIII were Richard Wrottesley, Thomas Swynnerton, and Sir Ralph Egerton, and the King pricked the name of Richard (Sheriff's Roll, 10 November 1516).

² The late Mr. Stephen Tucker, Somerset Herald, who had collected some of these licences with a view of writing a paper upon them, informed me that there were others in existence of the same period and in nearly the same words. He considered that these licences were the origin of the popular belief that certain families like the de Courcys and the Foresters, had an hereditary right of wearing a hat in the presence of the Sovereign; a privilege which he believed to have no foundation in fact.

offraunce and lord of
brette afooll of spirell
the thes^e o^r lres^e heing
informed that o^r trusty
turn diseased and
condemntly wout his
mponire in consideracion
indure his bonit on his
afoell m^e o^r p^rsent o^r
comande you and iij of
yo^r l^oth^e chalinge or
y^e p^rsent under o^r Signet
w^och^e the by yow of our

Henry

Henry by the grace of god king of England and of France and lord of
Ireland Commander in chief in justice and Ensigne of the faithfull
Dominion and Significative of temporall authoritie thes^e be his
owne writinge and signet wherby we be credibly informed that o^r trusty
and wellbelovyd Arthur Notheby squier for certain disease and
infirmities which he hath in his body cannot conveniently without his
great daungers be distended of the same. Whereupon we in consideration
therof have by thes^e present letters licensed him to use and drive his boat on his
body from his forth in all place and at all seasons of the year o^r place and
at his pleasure at his liberte. Vnder these our seal and commandment you and every of
you to permitte and suffer him so to do without any yo^r lothe challenge or
interponion to the contrary do yettender o^r please. Given under o^r Signet
at our court of Westminster the xijth day of maye the vijth year of our
Reigne



marks for his burial within Saint Thomas chancel within the Parish Church of Saint Michael the Archangel, of Tettenhale, and eight marks "to have a pryst to synge a whole rere for my solle, and my wyffys soll, and for our fadurs sollys and our modur's sollys and for all Chrystun sollys."

To his son George, whose name is spelt Jorge in the will, he bequeathed £20, and "my best gylte gobbelett and my gowne that ys lynyd with sawsenett, and my coyt of tawny chamlett and dubbelett of tawny satten, and vi sylvr sponys, ij of the best and iiij of the seconde sworde, and xl schype and iiij oxsun and iiij kyyn and my bedde thatt I ly yn with the hangyng ovur, and the lyttull coveryng that ys lynyd with canvas and ii pere of schetes and a bolster and a pelo, and my blacke nagge and also my cheyst that stands att my beddys seyde in my chambur."

To his daughter Margaret he bequeathed £20 and "hur modurs best fruntelette and hur best cappe, and my grette cuppe of sylvr with the covur and vi sylvr sponys and a fetur bed and the seconde covurryng and a bolster and ii pere of small schetes, and ii pere of gretur schetes and a borde cloyth of dyapur and anodur of playne and ii brasun potts a more and a las and ii panys a more and a las and vi chargars and vi potyngars and a ryng of golde with a ruby and my black cofer in the newe chambur, and all these goodys for to be presyd by indyfferent men and for to be sett upon hur mareg money."

Similar bequests in the same unique orthography were made to his son Jamys Lewsun (James Leveson), and to his sons Thomas, Harry, Walter and John, and to his "doyrthtur" Anne, his daughter Elisabeth, his daughter Jane, his daughter Ysabell, lyttull John Wrottysley (his grandson), to whom he bequeathed "an ambelyng foyll," Dorethe his son Walter's "doyrthtur," his daughter Alys, his daughter Marget, his daughter Elnar, his son Thomas Lewsun; and to St. Thomas awter he bequeathed "a cove and a pere of vestments" and a sum of 26s. 8d. "for to ley the stone upon me and my wyffe."¹

This stone still exists in the Wrottesley Chapel at Tettenhall, and is shewn in the plate annexed. It consists of a slab of alabaster, with the portraitures of a man in armour, and his wife, drawn in black lines. The armour is of the reign of Edward IV. At their feet are shewn effigies of sixteen children, and on either side, near the

¹ Contemporary copy of will formerly at Wrottesley. The original will does not exist.

upper part of the stone, are shields bearing the arms of Wrottesley and Dudley. Round the rim of the stone is engraved the following rhyming epitaph in Gothic characters.

Here lye closed in cley, the body of Richard Wrottesley,
 And also Dorothy, his wif, which lived togedder all yir lif.
 The year M.CCCC.XVII of our Lord, Dorothy departed
 out of ye world,
 And after within short space, Richard was leyd in this place.
 Here now our bodies do ley, on our soules Jesu have mercy.
 We desire every Christian mon, to pray for our soules that bin
 gon.

These verses are doubtless the composition of Richard himself, for in his will he speaks of the stone as already in existence but not laid down.

He left at his death five sons and seven daughters. Of these Walter, the eldest son, succeeded him at Wrottesley. Of the second son, George, nothing is known, and he probably died shortly after his father.

Thomas married and had a son, George, who is styled George Wrottesley, of Chelmarsh, co. Salop, in a deed amongst the Ashmolean MSS. dated 1597. An account of this George, who was subsequently knighted, will be given in a future page.

John, the fourth son, is mentioned in the will of Dr. Richard Dudley, Chancellor of Salisbury, his uncle, which was proved in 1536, and is printed at length in Mr. Sydney Grazebrook's "History of the Dudleys" in vol. ix of Staffordshire Collections.

Harry, the next son, occurs also in the same will as Henry Wrottesley, and as one of the executors of it. The will also names the wife of Henry and his son Richard, who was the testator's godson.

Of the seven daughters of Richard Wrottesley, Elinor, the eldest, married, for a first husband, Edmund Leversedge, of Frome Selwood, co. Somerset, and for a second husband Sir Henry Long, of Wraxall and Draycot, co. Wilts. Sir Henry was a distinguished soldier of the reign of Henry VIII, and one of the Knights of the King's Household; by him she had a numerous family, two of whom, Richard and Thomasine, are mentioned in the will of Richard Dudley, as his godchildren. Elinor, Lady Long, died in 1543.¹

Anne married Thomas Leveson, of Wolverhampton and

¹ "Visitation of Wilts, 1623." and Pedigree of Long, in Howard's "Miscellanea Genealogica." Sir Henry was Sheriff of co. Wilts in the years 1512, 1526, 1537 and 1542. He died in 1556.



Gravestone Slab, Wotton Hall Church.

Richard Wottonlesley Armiger and Dorothy Audley his wife.

A.D.. 1521.

Willenhall, and another daughter, Marjory or Margaret, married James Leveson, of Perton, a rich merchant of the Staple, and ancestor of the Dukes of Sutherland.

According to the pedigree of Onslow in the Visitation of Shropshire of 1623, as printed by the Harleian Society, Margaret, the daughter of Richard Wrottesley, married Humphrey Onslow, of Onslow, co. Salop, but whether this is the same Margaret who married James Leveson, or there were two daughters named respectively Margaret and Marjory, I am unable to say.

Richard Wrottesley had two younger brothers who have been mentioned in the account of his father, Sir Walter Wrottesley. The elder of these, William, inherited a large portion of the Baron estates, and was the founder of a younger branch of the family which lasted for some generations. He appears to have been placed into the household of the new King, Henry VII, at the accession of that monarch, for the Wardrobe Accounts of 4 Henry VII, shew that he was one of the Esquires of the Body, receiving gifts of clothing from the King; and in the first year of the same reign, he obtained by grant from the King the Keepership of the Park of Raskyll, co. York.¹ At the latter date he could not have been more than twenty-five years of age. His will, in which he is styled William Wrottesley, of Redynge, in the co. of Berks, is dated 26th December 1512, and was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the 4th February 1513. In this will he desires to be buried within the Parish Church of Saint Olaf in Silverstrete, London, "before the image of our Blessed Lady stondynge at the High Awter of the said Church." He names his daughter Elizabeth, his daughter Custance (Constance), his son Robert, his son-in-law Escue, "my lady Sturton (his sister), my lorde her husband, my lorde Sowche (de la Zouche), John Wraxley (probably his nephew John Wrottesley), my lady Scrope (his sister), and Dame Parnell beyng within the nonry of Dertforde, in co. of Kent (another sister), my eldest brother, and his sons Walter and Thomas, and my sonne Edward." To his son Robert he left all his lands and tenements lying within the town of Reading to him and his heirs for ever, ten shillings out of them to be paid yearly to the Churchwardens of the Parish Church of Our Lady of Redynge. Robert, his son, and Constance, his daughter, to be his executors. In the proof of the will both Robert and Constance were stated to be under age.

¹ "Materials for the History of King Henry VII" (printed in Rolls Series). On the Patent Roll of 1 Henry VII, part ii, there is a pardon for George Neville late of Raskell, co. York.

His son-in-law Escue, was Sir William Ayscough or Askew, of South Kelsey, co. Lincoln, who married his daughter Elizabeth, and by her was father of the unfortunate Anne Askew, who was burnt as a heretic in 1546.¹

A Robert Wrastley, who was probably identical with Robert, the son of this William, was Member of Parliament for the town of Chippenham in 1553, the first year of Queen Mary.

Walter, the other brother, died in 1502. By his will, which is dated 7th December 1502, and proved on the 17th of the same month, he desired to be buried in the Church of St. Mark, in Bristowe (Bristol), beside Jane, his wife, and he bequeathed to the House of St. Mark two tenements in Wryngton, co. Somerset, given to him and to his wife by John Key, Esq., of co. Somerset. He also bequeathed to the same House a rent of 20s. from Kyngeston, co. Somerset, and all his property in Cosham, co. Wilts, for a term of fifty years. He also made bequests to my lord St. Amand, my lord Stourton (his brothers-in-law), to Maister Croope (Scrope), and "my lady his wife," "to my lady my moder," and to his eldest brother Richard Wrottesley, and to his brother William Wrottesley, to his niece Bess, and his nephew John Wrottesley, and the residue of his goods to Lady Saint Amand, "my good suster."²

It would seem by this will that Walter left no issue. It shews also that his mother Jane, Lady Darell, the widow of Sir Walter Wrottesley, was still alive; at this period she had survived her first husband for nearly thirty years.

The following deeds, formerly at Wrottesley, belong to the period of Richard Wrottesley:—

To all true Xpen people to whom this present writyng endented shall come. Richard Chokke and Thomas Lyttelton Knights Justices of our soverayn lord the Kyng of his Comen Bench sende gretyng in our lord everlastyng. Whereas dyvers variances and debates have been hadde and moeved bitwene Sir Richard Darell Knyght and Dame Jane his wife sumtyme the wyf of Sir Walter Wrottesley Knyght on that one partie, and Richard Wrottesley Esquier son and heire of the said Sir Walter on that other partie, of and upon the right, title and possession of the manour of Wrottesley in the Countie of Stafford, and also of other lands and tenements in Wrottesley and Tettenall in the said Countie of Stafford, which sumtyme were Hugh Wrottesleys, and as it is surmytted by the said Sir Richard Darell and Jane

¹ "History of the Reformation," printed by the Camden Society, where the father of Elizabeth is written *Thomas* Wrottesley, by mistake for William.

² Will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and now at Somerset House.

(some words omitted here in the original deed) the said Walter Wrottesley and also of and upon the possession and purporties of such goods as were lefte by the said Jane in the said manour of Wrottesley. Wherefore the said Sir Richard Darell Knyght and Richard Wrottesley Esquier by their escripts obligatorye beryng date the xvth day of May the yere of the reigne of our soverayn lord Kyng Edward the Fourth the xxth have compromytted themselves to stonde, hold, and obey the arbitrement, ordinaunce, and juggement of us the said Richard Chokke and Thomas Lyttelton arbitrators bitwene the said parties indifferently chosen of and upon the right, title and possession of all the manours, londs and tenements which sumtyme were Hugh Wrottesleys or of the said Walter Wrottesley or any other to their use, or to the use of eny of them, and also of and upon accions as well reall as personall, sutes, quarrells, variaunces, and demands bitwene the said parties or bitwene the forsaid Richard Wrottesley and Sir Richard Darrell in eny wise hadde, moeved, or hangyng before the date of the said obligations. Whereupon we the forsaid Richard Chokke and Thomas Lyttelton takyng upon us to arbitre of and upon the premisses, the titles, claymes, answers and replications of the parties aforesaid, herde, and understonden, by the assent of the said parties and also by the desire and agreement of William Baron Esquier, ffader of the said Dame Jane Darell, arbitre, awarde ordeyn and deme of and upon the same in fourme folowyng, that is to say that the said Sir Richard Darell in the name of hym and the seid Dame Jane on this side the feest of Pentecost next nowe comyng, shall make and delyver unto the said Richard Wrottesley at the cost of the same Richard Wrottesley a dede of feoffament, with a letter of attorney in the same dede unto William ffalls Chapeleyn and Roger Bold, and to everyche of them, to delyver seasyng of the manours of Wrottesley and Butterton and of all the londs and tenements in Wrottesley, Tettnale, Butterton, and Codsall in the said Countie of Stafford or elsewhere in the same Countie which were the said Walter Wrottesleys, or Hugh Wrottesleys unto the said Richard Wrottesley, to have and holde to hym, his heires, and assignes for evermore, and also that the said Sir Richard Darell shall delyver unto the said Richard Wrottesley a relese in the name of the said Sir Richard Darell and dame Jane of all their right in the said manours of Wrottesley and Butterton, and all other londs and tenements in Wrottesley and Butterton, Tettnale and Codsall in the Countie of Stafford or ellswhere in the same Countie which sumtyme were the said Walter Wrottesley or Hugh Wrottesley Squier ffader of the same Walter or of eny other to their use or to the use of either of them and that so soon that than within the space of a moneth next after, the said Richard Wrottesley beyng seasyd of the manour of Wrottesley and of all the said other londs and tenements in Tettnale and Wrottesley of a rightful and lawfull estate of enherytaunce by his dede sufficiaunte in lawe shall graunte unto the said Sir Richard Darrell and Dame

Jane at the cost of the same Sir Richard Darell and Jane an annuell rent of v li. sterlyng yerely to be paied at ii termes of the yere, that is to say, the one half on Saint Martyns day after All Halowmesse at the Rode of the North dore in Paules in London bitwene one of the klok at afternones and iiii of the klok of the same day than next ensuyng, and the other half in the same place the Saturday next after the Assencion day bitwene one of the klok at afternone and v of the klok of the same day than next followyng, which graunte shalbe with a penaltie of xx s. in the said dede conteyned to be forfeite as often as hit shall happen the said Rent at the day and place lymtyed to be uncontent, and also as often as it shall happen the said Sir Richard Darell and dame Jane, their Deputie, servant, or assigne to be interrupte, lette or distourbed to distreyn for the said Rent or the arrerage thereof beyng behynde, by the said Richard Wrottesley, his fermours, servant or Deputie, by his comaundement, and also as often as hit shall happen, the said Richard Wrottesley his fermour or servant by his comaundement to sue replevin of eny distresse taken for the said Rent or eny parcell thereof due uncontent, and for the suretie of the said Rent to be content at the daies lymtyed during the lyf of the said dame Jane, we awarde that the said Richard Wrottesley within a moneth after the said graunte of annuytee made, shall enfeoffe of the saide manour of Wrottesley the said Thomas Lyttelton, Richard Lyttelton, John Brown, William Wrottesley and William Wylkys to have and to hold unto them, their heires and assignes for evermore to the intent that they shalbe and stonde feoffes of the said manour with the appurtenaunts during the lyf of the said dame Jane, for the contentacion of the said annuytie, and after her deth they shalbe and stonde feoffes of the said manour, londs and tenements till tyme that the said Sir Richard Darell yf it fortune hym to overlyve the said Jane or the executors of the said Jane yf she overlyve the said Sir Richard Darell be satisfied and contented of the arrerage of the said annuytie ronnen in the lyf of the said Jane. Also we awarde that either of the said Sir Richard Darell and Richard Wrottesley on this side the feast of Pentecost next comyng by their dede relese and quyteclayme unto other all actions personell and demaunds which they or eny of them myght have hadde before the first day of May last past. In witness whereof to that one part of this our present awarde endednt toward the said Richard Wrottesley remainyng as well we the said arbitraters as the said Sir Richard Darell have sette our sealls, and to that other part thereof toward the said Sir Richard Darell abydyng as well we the said arbitraters as the said Richard Wrottesley have sette our sealls. Wreten and goven the xxist day of May the xxith yere of the reigne of Kyng Edward the Fourth.¹ (A.D. 1481.)

Three seals of conventional design, not armorial.

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. This is the earliest deed in English of those formerly preserved at Wrottesley.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod nos Ricardus Darrell miles et Johanna uxor ejus que fuit uxor Walteri Wrottesley militis defuncti tradidimus, concessimus et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus Ricardo Wrottesley armigero filio et heredi predicti Walteri Wrottesley maneria de Wrottesley et Butterson ac omnia alia terras et tenementa cum pertinentiis in Wrottesley, Tettnale, Butterson et Codsall in Comitatu Stafford ac alibi in eodem comitatu. Habendum et tenendum omnia predicta maneria, terras et tenementa, redditus et servicia cum omnibus suis pertinentiis prefato Ricardo Wrottesley, heredibus et assignatis suis in perpetuum de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta. Sciatis nos insuper prefatos Ricardum Darell et Johannam attornasse et in loco nostro posuisse dilectos nobis in Xpo Willelmum ffales capellanum et Rogerum Bold nostros veros et legitimos attornatos conjunctim et divisim ad intrandum vice et nomine nostris in omnia predicta maneria terras et tenementa cum pertinentiis, et possessionem inde sic captam, plenariam possessionem et seisinam inde prefato Ricardo Wrottesley deliberandam. Habendum sibi heredibus et assignatis suis secundum formam et effectum hujus carte nostre. Ratum habentem et gratum quicquid predicti attornati nostri seu eorum alter fecerint seu fecerit in premissis adeo precise prout nosmet ipsi personaliter interessemus. In ejus rei testimonium huic presenti carte nostre sigilla nostra apposuimus. Hiis testibus Ricardo Chokke, Thoma Lyttelton militibus, Justiciariis domini Regis de Banco, Johanne Broun, Thoma Wood, Willelmo Wilkes et multis aliis. Data apud Wrottesley predictum vicesimo secundo die mensis Maii anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo primo.¹ (A.D. 1481.)

Two seals of conventional pattern.

Noverint universi per presentes me Ricardum Darell militem, virum Johanne nuper uxoris Walteri Wrottesley militis defuncti, remississe relaxasse et omnino de et pro me et executoribus meis in perpetuum quietclamasse Ricardo Wrottesley filio nuper et heredi dictorum Walteri et Johanne omnimodas actiones personales, sectas, querelas, calumpnias et demandas quas versus Ricardum Wrottesley unquam habui, habeo, seu quovismodo habere potero ratione seu causa quacunque de principio mundi usque primum diem mensis Maii ultimi preteriti ante datum presentium. In ejus rei testimonium presentibus sigillum meum apposui, Datum vicesimo sexto die mensis Maii anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo primo.¹ (26 May 1481.)

Seal, an antique head.

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Ricardus Wrottesley Armiger dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Thome Littelton militi uno Justiciariorum domini Regis de Banco, Ricardo Littelton,

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

Johanni Broun, Willelmo Wrottesley et Willelmo Wylkes manerium de Wrottesley cum pertinentiis in Comitatu Stafford. Habendum et tenendum manerium predictum cum pertinentiis prefatis Thome, Ricardo Littelton, Johanni, Willelmo et Willelmo heredibus et assignatis suis in perpetuum de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta. Et ego vero, etc. (*Clause of warranty.*) In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte mee sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus Ricardo Chokke milite uno Justiciariorum domini Regis de Banco, Thoma Astley, Willelmo Astley Armigeris, et multis aliis. Data apud Wrottesley predictum vicesimo die mensis Junii anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum vicesimo primo.¹ (20 June 1481.)

Seal, a boar's head issuing from a ducal coronet.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos hoc presens scriptum pervenerit, Ricardus Lyttelton Willelmus Wrottesley et Willelmus Wylkes salutem in domino sempiternam. Sciatis nos prefatos Ricardum Willelmum et Willelmum dimississe, concessisse, liberasse et hoc presenti scripto nostro confirmasse Ricardo Wrottyesley armigero et Dorothee uxori ejus manerium de Wrottyesley cum pertinentiis in Comitatu Stafford quod quidem manerium cum pertinentiis nuper habuimus scilicet cum Thoma Lyttelton milite nuper uno Justiciariorum domini Regis de Banco et Johanne Brone jam defunctis ex dono et feoffamento predicti Ricardi Wrottyesley. Habendum et tenendum predictum manerium cum pertinentiis prefatis Ricardo Wrottyesley et Dorothee et heredibus et assignatis ipsius Ricardi in perpetuum de capitale domino per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta. Sciatis nos insuper prefatos Ricardum Lyttelton, Willelmum et Willelmum attornasse et in loco nostro posuisse dilectos nobis in Christo Willelmum Wodhows et Thomam Atkys nostros veros et legitimos attornatos conjunctim et divisim ad intrandum vice et nominibus nostris in manerium predictum cum pertinentiis, et post hujusmodi ingressum ad deliberandum vice et nominibus nostris prefato Ricardo Wrottyesley et Dorothee plenariam et pacificam seisinam de eodem manerio cum pertinentiis. Tenendum sibi secundum formam et effectum presentis scripti nostri. Ratum et gratum habentem et habiturum quicquid dicti attornati nostri fecerint seu dictorum alter fecerit in deliberatione seisine predicte adeo precise prout nosmet ipsi ibidem personaliter interessemus. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto nostro sigilla nostra apposuimus. Hiis testibus Ricardo Asteley armigero, Ricardo Sutwyke, Willelmo Wolaston et multis aliis. Datum apud Wrottyesley vicesimo octavo die Junii anno regni regis Henrici VII post conquestum Anglie vicesimo. (28 June 1505.)²

Two seals destroyed, the middle seal a lion rampant, but with no legend.

¹ Original at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

This Indentur made the xiith day of Marche yn the xvith yere of the reign of Kyng Harry the viith bitwen Richard Wrotesley Esquier uppon the one partie, and Dame Marget Harcourt and Thomas Harcourt Esquier uppon the odur partie, wittenesith that hit ys covaunited and agreed bitwen the seid parties yn maner and forme folowyng, that ys to sey that the seid Richard covauntith and grauntith unto the seid dame Marget and Thomas that Water Wrotesley sonne and heir apparaunt unto the seid Richard, shall be the grace of God wedde and take to wyff Isabel Harcourt doghtur of John Harcourt Esquier on this half the feste of Seynt Michael the Archangell next ensuyng the date of this Indentur, and att the resonable request of the seid dame Marget and Thomas, and if hit so be that the seid Water discesse byfore marriage had bitwen hym and the seid Isabel as god forbidde, that then the next heir apparaunt to the seid Richard shall take to wyff the seid Isabell withyn a halfe yere after the discesse of the seid Water, att the resonable request of the seid dame Margett and Thomas uppon the same covaunt of marriage comprised yn this indentur: fforthermore the seid Richard covenantith and grauntith unto the seid dame Marget and Thomas that he shall make or cause to be made a sure and sufficyent estate yn the lawe to John Beymount, Thomas Harcourt, John Swynnerton and William Wilkes to them and to their heires, of and yn lands and tenements to the yerly value of x marks over all charges and reprises on this halfe the day of the marriage to this entent that they shall stand and be feffees unto the use and behove of the seid Water and Isabell and the heires of hys bodie by the seid Isabell bigoten; and after the discesse of dame Jane Wrotesley, the seid Richard shall make or cause to be made unto the seid feffees like astate as ys byfore seid, of and yn lands and tenements of the yerly value of v marks over all charges and reprises withyn vi weks after the discesse of the seid dame Jane, to the same use and entent as is bifore written, the remeynder of all the seid lands to the seid Richard and his heires, also the seid Richard covauntith and grauntith unto the seid dame Marget and Thomas that all odur maners, lands, tenements and all odur hereditaments of the wiche he is now seysed, or eny odur person or persons to hys use in fee sympull, tayle, reymender, or in reversion, schall immediatly after hys discesse, discend, reymayne and revert to the seid Water and hys heires, dower and jointure of Dorathe wyfe to the seid Richard of all suche lands that ys appoynted therunto beyng yn feffees hands except, provided allwey that it schall be lawfull to the seid Richard to make his will sufficient yn law for terme of x yers after his discesse of lands and tenements to the yerly value of x marks over all charges, and also that if so be hit happen the seid Dorathe to disesse and the seid Richard to take anodur wyfe, that then it shall be lawfull to the seid Richard to make or cause to be made to his wyf or wyffes as it shall forten hym to be married unto, astate for terme of lyf of lands and tenements to the yerely value of x marks over all charges

and reprises, also the seid Richard covenantith and grauntith to the seid dame Marget and Thomas that the reversion of all syche lands and tenements of the wiche the seid Richard shall hereafter declare his wyll as ys before rehersyd, and the reversion of the lands and tenements deliveryd for the jointure of the said Water and Isabell and the reversion of dower and jointure of all lands and tenements that it shall hapen the seid Dorathe to have, or odur wyfe or wyffes that it shall fortene the seid Richard to marie, shall immediatly after the x yers expired and after the disesse of the seid Dorathe or odur wyf or wyffs that shall fortene to be married to the seid Richard, revert and remayn to the seid Water and his heirs, also that the seid Richard covenantith and grauntith to the seid dame Marget and Thomas that he for hisselfe or feffees schall make noon alienation or suffur ony wylfull recovery agaynst them of ony parcell of his seid lands and tenements, nor in any wyse charge his seid lands and tenements, but such as schall expier in his lyf except syche lands and tenements as is bifore excepted; all the wiche covenants well and truly to be performed and kept the seid Richard covenantith and grauntith to the seid dame Marget and Thomas to bynd hym selfe John Beymound and Water Lewson ther heyrs and executors in an obligation of ccc marks jointly and severally to be peyd to the seid dame Marget and Thomas, if so be all or singuler covenants comprised in this indentur upon the partie of the seid Richard in ony wyse be broken, for the wiche mariage and livery to be had, the seid dame Margett and Thomas shall pay to the seid Richard the day of the seylyng of thes indentur c marks and the day of the mariage of the seid Water and Isabell or odur heir apparaunt of the seid Richard c marks, and if it so be that the seid Isabell disesse before the day of hur mariage that then the seid Richard schall repay unto the seid dame Marget and Thomas withyn a yere after the disesse of the seid Isabell the seid c marks. In witness whereof the forseid parties to this Indentur enterchangeably have sett to (*sic*) ther seyles. Geven the day and yere above writton.¹ (12 March 1501.)

Seal, a shield, charge indistinguishable.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Antonius de Sancto Amando dedi, concessi, et hac presenti carta mea indentata confirmavi Thome West militi, domino la Warr, Thome West militi et heredi apparenti dicti domini la Warr, Johanni Roo servienti ad legem, Rogero Copley armigero, Roberto Norwich, Thome Polstede et Christofero Metcalf, manerium meum de Iplepen cum pertinentiis, necnon ducenta messuagia, quatuor milia acras terre, ducentas acras parci, tria milia acras pasture, ducentas acras bosci, dua milia acras . . . et bruere et triginta solidos redditus cum pertinentiis in Iplepen, Torbryan, Kyngescarswell et Wychcom in Comitatu Devonie. Habendum et tenendum dictum manerium et cetera premissa cum suis pertinentiis prefatis Thome West militi domino

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

la Warr, Thome West filio, Johanni Roo, Rogero Copley, Roberto Norwich, Thome Polstede, et Christofero Metcalff, heredibus et assignatis suis, ad opus et usum Anne de Sancto Amando uxoris mei prefati Antonii durante vita ipsius Anne absque impetitione alicujus vasti secundum intentionem specificatum in quadam indentura inter me prefatum Antonium et prefatum dominum la Warr super maritagium inter me prefatum Antonium et prefatam Annam habendum et solemnizandum, factum et habitum. Et post mortem prefate Anne ad opus et usum mei prefati Antonii et heredum de corpore meo legitime procreatorum. Et per defectum talis exitus ad usum Ricardi Wrattesley et Willelmi Wrattesley fratris sui et heredibus de corporibus suis legitime procreatis, et per defectum talis exitus, ad usum rectorum heredum eorundem Ricardi Wrattesley et Willelmi Wrattesley in perpetuum. Et insuper noveritis me prefatum Antonium fecisse, attornasse et loco meo posuisse dilectos mihi in Xpo Thomam Heal et Johannem Chaundeler meos veros et legitimos attornatos conjunctim et divisim ad intrandum pro me et nomine meo in predictum manerium et altera premissa cum omnibus suis pertinentiis et possessionem et seisinam sic inde nomine meo captam et habitum, plenam et pacificam possessionem ac seisinam nomine meo deliberandam prefatis Thome, Thome, Johanni, Rogero, Roberto et Christofero Metcalff, heredibus et assignatis suis in perpetuum, secundum vim, formam, tenorem, et essenciam hujus presentis carte mee inde eis censate, ratum et gratum habentem et habiturum, totum et quicquid dicti attornati mei nomine meo fecerint seu alter eorum fecerit in premissis. In ejus rei testimonium huic presenti carte mee tripartite indentate sigillum meum apposui. Data quarto die Augusti anno regni Regis Henrici octavi nono.¹ (4 August 1517.)

Per me Antony Sayntmond (*sic*, his signature, with a long flourish at the end).

HENRY R.² By the King.

Trusty and well beloved wee greet you well, and forasmuch as we be credibly informed that the Scotts be the instigation of our ancient enemy the French King be determined to invade this our Realme in the beginning of the month of September next comyng. We therefor taking special regard to the defense of our said Reamble against their malignite have appoynted our right trusty and right well beloved cousin and counsaillour the Erle of Shrewsbury, Stuard

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. According to Dugdale, Antony de St. Amand was illegitimate. He would, therefore, have no right heirs, and it will be noted that the ultimate remainder, failing his issue, is vested by the deed in the right heirs of Richard Wrottesley and his brother William. As Iplepen was held in capite, the license of the Crown was required for its alienation. This fact was apparently overlooked at the time, for the license of alienation appears on the Patent Roll of 18 Henry VIII. (State Papers, printed, Rolls' Series).

² This is the King's sign manual. The writ has no date, but the Earl of Shrewsbury was commanded to raise a force against the Scots in 1522, and he entered Scotland in the same year. (Tytler's "History of Scotland," vol. v.)

of our houstholde, to be our lieutenant general, and have authorised him to have the leding of all and singular our subyetts in those contries for resisting of the said invasion. Willinge therefor and desiring, and nevertheless comaunding you forthwith upon the sight of these our letters not only to prepaure yourself with suche a nombre of hable men horsed and harnessed as many as ye can prepaure making certifiat unto our said lieutenant of your said nombre with all diligence possible, but also kepe yourself in further redyness that upon a houres warnyng after requisition to be made unto you by our said lieutenants letters ye may set furthe and joyne with him without delay for resisting of the said invasion. Faile ye not this to do, as ye tendour hoursef and the defense of this our Realme. Given under our signet at our manour of Newhall the xiii day of August.

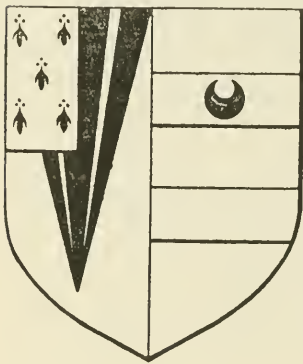
Endorsed. To our trusty and well beloved servaunte Richarde Wrottesley.¹

ARMS OF RICHARD WROTTESELEY.

On the dexter side—Or, three piles Sable, a quarter Ermine, for Wrottesley.

On the sinister side—Or, two lions passant Azure, for Sutton of Dudley.

WALTER WROTTESELEY, 1521—1563.



Walter Wrottesley must have succeeded Richard before the 6th December 1521, for on that day he paid a mark to the Abbot of Evesham for half a year's quit rent due at the previous Michaelmas.²

He is shewn to be son of Richard by the deeds at Wrottesley, the will of his uncle William, which was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, and by the Heralds' Visitations which are trustworthy evidence for the Tudor period, although they are not always

to be relied upon for earlier descents.³

¹ Original writ of military summons at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62. The abbreviations have been extended, but the original orthography has been retained, and it will be seen that it differs little from our modern spelling.

² Original Receipt at Wrottesley.

³ They are trustworthy for this period, because it may be assumed that every man would know the names of his grandfather, father, and of his children, also of grandchildren if any existed. They are, therefore, excellent evidence for five generations of a family, and are certified in many cases by the head of the family.

Apparently the death of Richard Wroottesley had not been notified to the Exchequer, for a writ of military summons, addressed to him by name, directs him to be prepared to join the Earl of Shrewsbury, who had been appointed to lead an army against the Scots. This took place in July 1522. The writ is under the King's sign manual, and is one of the writs sent by the King himself to the Barons and principal tenants in chief of the Crown.¹ It shews that notwithstanding the loss of the manors granted by Edward IV to Sir Walter Wroottesley, Richard was still considered by the Exchequer authorities as liable to military service as a tenant in capite, for ordinary tenants would be summoned by the Sheriffs of counties.

One of the first acts performed by Walter in his capacity as head of his family, was a conveyance in trust for the Reading Almshouses. In this he is described as "cosyn and heire of William Baron late of Redyng, son of Johanna, doughter and heire to the said William Baron." This conveyance is dated the 3rd June 16 Henry VIII (1524).²

On the Saturday before the Feast of St. Valentine, 16 Henry VIII (11th February 1525) the Kinver Manor Roll states that he appeared in person in full Court and claimed to hold of the lord all the lands and tenements in Kyngeley which descended to him by hereditary right, after the death of Richard Wroottesley, Armiger, his father." Kingeley was an outlying portion of Kinver manor, lying within the parish of Tettenhall.

Walter Wroottesley was appointed King's Eschaetor for the county of Stafford by letters patent of 19 Henry VIII and 24 Henry VIII. His accounts for these two years remain in the Public Record Office. He also served the office of Sheriff of the county in 23 Henry VIII.

There is an entry amongst the State papers of 18 Henry VIII (A.D. 1526) which, unless explained, is likely to lead to some misapprehension. This is a licence for Thomas, Lord de la Warr, Sir John Copley and others to alienate lands in Iplepen, Torbryan and other places named in co. Devon to Sir Anthony de St. Amand and Anne, his wife, to the use of Anne for her life and with remainders over (as in the deed of 9 Henry VIII, p. 264), and with remainder in default of any issue of Anthony and Anne to *Richard Wroottesley and William, his brother*.³ It would be supposed from the tenor of these letters patent that Richard Wroottesley and William were still alive, whereas we know

¹ See p. 265 ante.

² Original deed at Wroottesley, copied 1860-62.

³ State Papers, temp. Henry VIII (domestic), printed in Rolls Series.

from other sources that they had been dead for some years. The explanation seems to be, that at the date of the deed of 9 Henry VIII it had been overlooked that the lands dealt with, being held of the King in capite, it was necessary to obtain a license from the Crown for their alienation, and the above letters patent, issued nine years afterwards, were obtained to rectify this omission.

Walter Wrottesley's name occurs in the Commission of the Peace issued in 1531 and for many years afterwards, in fact it may be said that no commission affecting Staffordshire was issued during his epoch which does not contain his name. In 26 Henry VIII (1535) he was one of the Commissioners for levying the tenth of Spiritualities in Staffordshire. The returns of these Commissioners are known as the "Valor ecclesiasticus," and have been printed. The Commissioners for Staffordshire were

Roland Lee, the Bishop of	Sir John Gifforde,
Coventry and Lichfield,	John Vernon,
Sir John Talbot,	George Greysley,
George Audeley,	Edward Lyttelton,
Walter Wrottyesley,	Thomas Holte,
William Basset,	John Grosvenour, and
Thomas Gifforde,	Thomas Moreton.
Walter Blount,	

In 1535 the King had assumed the title of Supreme Head of the Church, and in the following year Walter Wrottesley was a party to one of the odious prosecutions set on foot by Cromwell, the King's minister, for words spoken against the King. The unfortunate defendant in this case was one George Robinson, who had been reported for using words against the King's Majesty. It was a very common proceeding in such cases to rake up a charge of felony against the prisoner, and Cromwell ordered a copy of the Indictment to be sent up to the Council: the latter was signed by three magistrates of the County, Sir William Bassett, Sir Philip Draycot and Walter Wrottesley, and stated that Henry Bakster *alias* Starky, of Chester, had been indicted for stealing a horse, and that George Robinson, late of London, mercer, Fermor of the manor of Drayton-Basset had been indicted for receiving the horse, and allowing the thief to go at large, and for using words against the King's Majesty, the latter, of course, being the gravamen of the charge. On the 11th February, 1536, Sir John Dudley writes to Cromwell:—"This day at Lichfield, George Robinson was indicted for felony, the Justices of the Peace were Sir William Bassett, Sir Philip Draycot and Walter Wrottesley, who have done well in the King's service, most of the jury

were gentlemen of substance."¹ It is very much to be feared, from the terms of Dudley's letter, that the unfortunate prisoner had been found guilty.

Walter Wrottesley signs his name at the bottom of this Indictment as "Walter Wrotyssley," and this is the earliest signature of any member of the family I have met with.

In 31 Henry VIII (1539-40) he was included in a Special Commission of "Oyer and terminer" for treasons and other offences in cos. Oxon, Berks, Worcester, Hereford, Salop and Stafford.

In the same year he was one of the Commissioners for the General Muster in Staffordshire, which is printed in vol. iv, New Series, of the Staffordshire Collections. In 1538 the Pope, Paul IV, had published a Bull excommunicating Henry VIII and deposing him from his throne for his heretical opinions, and had called upon the Emperor and the King of France to put it into execution. The King and his Council were seriously alarmed, and ordered a muster to be made of the entire armed forces of the kingdom; but the King's diplomacy eventually disconcerted the measures of the Pope, and the levies were never called out. Walter Wrottesley was also one of the Commissioners for taking the surrenders of the monasteries into the King's hands in the same year.

In 32 Henry VIII (1540), he purchased from Sir Giles Strangeways and Joan his wife, the manor of Lutley, in co. Stafford, and 900 acres of land, etc., in Lutley, Morfe and Enville.² The object of this purchase is not very apparent, as Lutley does not adjoin Wrottesley, and it was afterwards resold.

The following letter from Sir John Dudley (afterwards Duke of Northumberland), belongs to the year 1542. At this date, Dudley was a Knight in the royal household, and rapidly rising in the King's favor. In the following year he was created Viscount Lisle.

To my Cosen Walter Wrotisley Esquier this be geven.

COZEN WROTISLEY,

I hartilly recomende me unto you, and whereas I do perceyve by my servant Henerye Cresset that you can be content to take some paynes for me in the surveying of my landes, I wyll deserve the same your paynes that ye shall therein take if it lye in me.

Mr. Willoughby that ys of my consaill ys appoynted to mete with you at Dudeley the fyrst Sondaye of Lente where

¹ State Papers, printed in Record Series.

² Fine levied at Mich. 32 Henry VIII. Vol. xi of Staffordshire Collections, p. 282.

I praye you not to faile to mete hym, and ye shall nowe receyve a patent of $iiii\frac{1}{2}$ a yere growyng out of my lordship of Seggisley in recompence of your olde patent of v marks a yere, and thus I commytt you to God. Att the Courte this xviiith daye of Februaire.

Y^r loving kinsman assuredly
JOHN DUDDELEY.

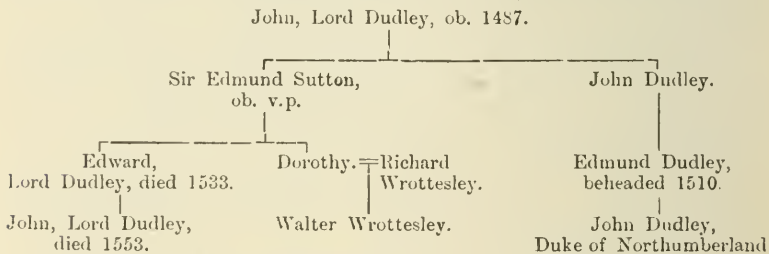
This letter is written by a Secretary, but the words "Y^r loving kinsman assuredly," and the signature are in Dudley's own hand.¹ It must have been written in 1542, for in a volume of old MSS. belonging to Brooke Robinson, Esq., is a survey of the manor of Sedgley taken the 13th April, 33 Henry VIII (1542), before Walter Wrottesley and George Willoughby Esquires, and Thomas Rotesey Gent.²

At this date Sir John Dudley had contrived to strip his cousin John, Lord Dudley, of the Castle of Dudley, and the greater part of the possessions of the Dudley Barony. How this was effected has never been clearly ascertained, but Dugdale gives the following account of it:—

"It is reported by credible tradition of this John Lord Dudley, that being a weak man of understanding, whereby he had exposed himself to some wants, and so became entangled in the usurer's bonds, John Dudley, then Viscount Lisle and Earl of Warwick (afterwards Duke of Northumberland), thirsting after Dudley Castle, the chief seat of the family, made those money merchants his instruments to work him out of it, which by some mortgage being at length effected, this poor lord became exposed to the charity of his friends for a subsistence, and spending the remainder of his life in visits amongst them, was commonly called the Lord Quondam."³

The following undated letter from "Lord Quondam," was formerly at Wrottesley, and bears out to some extent the

¹ Original letter at Wrottesley copied by me for Grazebrook's "Barons of Dudley," 18-8. Sir John Dudley's relationship to Walter Wrottesley was no nearer than that of a second cousin, as will be seen by the following pedigree:—



² Grazebrook's "Barons of Dudley," p. 151, vol. ix of Staff. Collections.

³ Ibid. (quoting Dugdale).

account given of him by Dugdale, as a man of weak understanding. It was endorsed in a contemporary hand, "my lord Duddeley's lre, to thank you for Mr. Robert Duddeley."

MY HONORABLE COSYN,

I thank you for yr great kyndnes to my sunn and daughter. My father was a Rotesley man and I must ever remember to do you and yors any servis I can and yo^r wyfe I must honour as much as any Lady in the Kingdom and will rest at

Yr commande

J. DUDELEY.

To my Honorable Cosyn Mr. Water Wroteley.

His father was the brother of Dorothy, the mother of Walter, but I am unable to explain the allusion to his being "a Rotesley man," unless he was brought up in the household of Sir Walter Wrottesley at the time Sir Edmund Sutton, his father, was employed in Ireland. At the latter date he would have been twelve or thirteen years of age.

In 1545, by an indenture dated 28th July 37 Henry VIII, Walter Wrottesley covenanted with Thomas Asteley of Pattishull, Armiger, that "John Wrottisley, sonne and heire apparaunt of the said Walter, shall, by the grace of God, on this side the Feast of the Natyvytie of our Lord next ensuing after the date hereof, marrye and take to wyffe Elizabeth Asteley, daughter to the said Thomas Asteley, if the laws of the Holy Trynytie hit suffer and the said Elizabeth thereto consent and agree, etc." By this indenture the manor of Butterton, two pastures in Wyllnale (Willenhall), the Hawkwell mill, and another pasture named, or lands of equal value were to be settled by Walter on John Wrottesley and Elizabeth, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, and failing such, to revert to the right heirs of Walter. Butterton was stated to be of the annual value of £8 8s. 4d.¹

In the following year, viz. in 38 Henry VIII (1546), Walter Wrottesley served the office of Sheriff for the county for a second time, and the King dying during his Shrievaldom, Letters Patent were issued under the Great Seal, appointing him Sheriff of the county "quamdiu nobis placuerit."²

In these Letters Patent, his name is written "Walter Wriothsley."

In 2 Edward VI (1548) Parliament, with a view of augmenting the royal revenues, granted to the King the ancient ecclesiastical Colleges with their lands and revenues. Amongst these was the Collegiate Church of Tettenhall, with its five Prebends of Pendeford, Bobenhill or Barnhurst,

¹ Original deed formerly at Wrottesley.

² Original Letters Patent, formerly at Wrottesley.

Perton, Wrottesley and Codsall. As the Crown proposed to sell the Colleges to the highest bidder, it became necessary for Walter Wrottesley to purchase the College and its Prebends in order to preclude the interposition of other parties, who would have levied the tythes from the whole of his estates. The Crown exacted the full value of the property, for Walter paid about twenty-two years' purchase for it, and this was much above the value of freehold property at this date. The Letters Patent granting the College to him are dated 8th May 3 Edward VI, and the property conveyed by them is stated to be the late College of Totnall, or Totenhall, and its site and capital house, with its gardens, houses, barns, stables, dovecotes, orchards, and the Deanery of the said College and the five Prebends of Penford, Bobenhill, Perton, Wrottesley and Codsall, and all houses, barns, stables, etc. (as before), and woods, rents, reversions and services, and the tythes of grain and hay, and all other tythes, oblations, pensions, and all profits late proceeding from the several tenancies or occupations of Richard Cresswall, Thomas Solman, and the said Walter Wrottesley, situated or existing in Totenhalle, Alderley, Penford, Wirgis, Compton, Perton, Trescott, Bilbroke, Wrottysley, Wighwike, Okyn and Codsall, or elsewhere appertaining to the said College or Prebends, and all tythes, glebes, services, Court Leets, view of frankpledge, chattels waived, free warrens, and all other rights, jurisdictions, privileges, etc., both spiritual as well as temporal, of whatever kind, existing, situated, or appurtenant to the said College or Prebends as fully and truly as any Dean, Master, Warden or Prebendary had ever held them. To be held by the said Walter, his heirs and assigns of us and our Successors by the service of one-fortieth part of a Knight's Fee for ever.¹

Tettenhall was one of the King's Free Collegiate Churches, which are supposed to have been founded by King Edgar. They were exempt from all episcopal supervision, and as the spiritual jurisdiction as well as the temporal had passed to Walter Wrottesley and his heirs by the King's grant, the Wrottesleys became secular Deans of Tettenhall, and the wills of the parishioners both of Tettenhall and Codsall were proved in their Manor Courts until the abolition of the Peculiars in the early part of the last century. These wills were preserved at Wrottesley until the fire of December 1897, when they were destroyed with the rest of the Wrottesley muniments.

¹ Original Letters Patent under the Great Seal, at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

Contemporaneously with the purchase of the College, Walter obtained a license from the Crown to alienate the Penford and Bobenhill Prebends to Henry Suthwike and Richard Cresswell respectively, and these two Prebends never formed a part of the Wrottesley property.¹

The attempt of John Dudley, the Duke of Northumberland, to place his daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Grey, on the throne in 1553 is well known. It was fortunate for Walter Wrottesley, who appears to have been entangled to a great extent in the toils of the Duke, that the latter marched with all the troops he could levy into the Eastern Counties, in order to intercept the forces which the Princess Mary was raising in those parts, and that the attempt collapsed before the Duke's adherents from the Midland Counties could be got together.² The Duke left London on the 14th July, but dismissed his forces on the 20th and proclaimed Queen Mary. He was arrested on the 21st and reached the Tower of London on the 25th. On the 18th August he was tried and found guilty of high treason, and was beheaded on the 22nd August.

At this date Matthew Wrottesley, who appears to have been a son of Walter, was in the Duke's household, and was arrested with the rest of the Duke's servants. A letter from the Privy Council, dated 31st July 1553, directs the Bailiffs of Lichfield to release Walter Gravenor and Mathew Rottesley, servants of the Duke of Northumberland, now detained by them in prison, taking sufficient security from them to appear before the Council to answer for such matters as they may be charged with.³

Walter Wrottesley died at the close of 1562 or early in the year 1563. His will, in which he is styled "Walter Rottysley of Rottysley Ysquire," is dated the 13th December 1562, and consists of a few lines only. After the usual pious preamble, he goes on to "bequeyeth all my goods and cattells movabull and unmovabull to John my sonne and I countytute the seyd John my sone, my true and lawfull

¹ This licence is entered on the Memoranda Roll of the Remembrancer, 3 Edward VI, Trinity term, roll 3.

² The subsequent rebellion of Sir Thomas Wyatt shews that the Protestant party was very strong, and if the Duke had fallen back upon London, the attempt might have had a different issue.

³ Acts of the Privy Council (printed in the Rolls Series). Amongst the State Papers of 33 Henry VIII (printed) there is a license for Charles, Duke of Suffolk (the father of Lady Jane Grey), to alienate a water mill in Ashoo (Ashow), a grange called Burycote Grange in Ashoo, and land in Stamerton, co. Warwick, to Matthew Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, co. Stafford. I conclude from his being styled "of Wrottesley," he must have been a son of Walter, and the title deeds of this property were at Wrottesley until the late fire. Matthew must, therefore, have died s.p., and the owner of Wrottesley was his heir at law.

executor, and my cosyn Edward Levyson Ysquire oversear to see this my wyll parfumed."¹

This will was not proved till January 1565, but Walter must have died before the 1st July 1563, for on that day a copy of the Court Roll of Tettenhall Regis states that "John Rotsley Armiger son and heir of Walter Rotsley Armiger appeared in Court in his own person, and received from the lord (*cepit de domino*) all those messuages, etc., of which the said Walter Wrotsley (*sic*) had died seised," etc.²

So long as writing had been confined to a professional class, it is remarkable how little the orthography of names and places varies in ancient documents, but with the revival of letters, when all the educated classes could write more or less, the spelling of names and places was fast becoming purely phonetic. This Walter was the first member of his family who signs his name. His usual signature was "Walter Wrottysley," written in a large bold hand, but he was not at all particular about the spelling of his name. As shewn in the life of his father Richard, he married in 1501 Isabella, the daughter of John Harcourt, of Ronton. Assuming that he was only eighteen years of age at the date of his marriage, he must have been over eighty years of age at the date of his death, in 1563. Besides his son John, who succeeded him, he left a son Richard, who died in 1566, in which year letters of administration of his effects were granted to his brother John. Receipts at Wrottesley in connection with this administration shewed that Elinor, a daughter of Walter Wrottesley, was married to Richard Lee, Esq.,³ and that Margaret, another daughter, was married to Nicholas Thornes, Esq.⁴ Besides these, Walter had three other daughters, Elizabeth, who married Sir John Talbot, of Albrighton, the ancestor of the present Earl of Shrewsbury;⁵ Dorothy, married to William Lawrance, Esq., of Hartingfordbury;⁶ and a fifth daughter, also named Elizabeth, who married John Gower, of Woodhall, co. Worcester.⁷

The deeds and family settlements were preserved complete at Wrottesley up to the date of the fire in 1897, but as they

¹ Copy of will formerly at Wrottesley.

² Copy of Court Roll formerly at Wrottesley.

³ The Shropshire Visitation of 1623 says that Eleanor, daughter of Walter Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, married Richard Lee, of Langley, Esq.

⁴ The same Visitation mentions that Nicholas Thornes, of Shelvoke, co. Salop, married Margaret, daughter of Walter Wrottesley, and had issue Richard Thornes, who was Sheriff of the County of Salop in 1610.

⁵ The same Visitation states that Sir John Talbot, of Albrighton, married Elizabeth, the daughter of Walter Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, Kt., and that she died 10th May, 1 Elizabeth (1559).

⁶ See also Visitation of Hertfordshire, 1634, under Pedigree of Lawrance.

⁷ See also Visitation of co. Worcester, of 1569, under Pedigree of Gower. This Elizabeth cannot be identical with Elizabeth Talbot, for the latter in her will, as will be seen from the following extracts taken from a contemporary

were no longer required as evidences of descent after the reign of Henry VIII, no copies were made of them. In most cases, however, notes were taken of their contents, and these will be used in the narrative as it proceeds.

The following are the Letters Patent which appointed Walter Wrottesley Eschaetor of co. Stafford in 1527:—

Henricus Octavus dei gratia Anglie et Francie Rex, Fidei defensor, et Dominus Hibernie, omnibus ad suos presentes litere pervenerint salutem. Sciatis quod commisimus dilecto nobis Waltero Wrottesley, Armigero, officium Escaetrie nostre in Comitatu Staffordie. Habendum quamdiu nobis placuerit: ita quod de exitibus inde provenientibus nobis respondeat ad Scaccarium nostrum. In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium xviii die Novembris anno regni nostri decimo nono. (18th November 1527).¹

Great Seal of Henry VIII.

Henricus Octavus dei gratia Anglie et Francie Rex, fidei defensor et dominus Hibernie, Archiepiscopis, Episcopis, Abbatibus, Prioribus, Ducibus, Comitibus, Baronibus, militibus, liberis hominibus et omnibus aliis in Comitatu Staffordie. Cum comiserimus dilecto nobis Waltero Wrottesley, Armigero, officium Escaetrie nostre in Comitatu predicto; habendum quamdiu nobis placuerit, prout in literis nostris patentibus ei inde confectis plenius continetur; vobis mandamus quod eidem Waltero tanquam Escaetori in Comitatu predicto in omnibus que ad officium illud pertinent intendentes sitis et respondentes. In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium xviii die Novembris anno regni nostri decimo nono. (18th November 1527).²

Great Seal of Henry VIII.

ARMS OF WALTER WROTTESELEY.

On the dexter side—Or, three piles Sable, a quarter Ermine, for Wrottesley.

On the sinister side—Gules, two bars Or, for Harcourt, of Ronton, co. Stafford. On the upper bar a crescent Sable, as a mark of cadency.

copy formerly at Wrottesley, speaks of her brother "John Goer," and "my systur his wyfe." It was not uncommon in former days to give the same Christian name to two sisters.

The will of "Dame Elizabeth Talbot, wydow, lady of Salwarpe in the County of Worcester," was dated 1559. She makes the following bequests in it: To my father Water Wrottysley my gold ryng with a seal engraved with a boye (boar). Item I bequeth to my brother John Wrottysley iij angells and to my systur his wyfe one angell of gold and my best velvet gown. Item I bequeth to my brother Rychard Wrottysley iij angells of gold. Item I forgive to my brother John Goer xli of the xxli which he owyth to me and I bequeth to my systur his wyfe an angell of gold. Item I bequeth to my systur Elynor Lee and to my systur Margaret Wrottysley to eyther of them iij angells of gold. Item I bequeth to my systur Dorothy Lawrence xls.

¹ Original Letters Patent at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² *Ibid.*

Before proceeding further with this history, I propose to say a few words respecting the family of Writhe or Wrothe, who assumed the name of Wrottesley or Wriothesley in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII.

King Henry VII, in the first year of his reign, confirmed the appointment made by Edward IV, of John Wrythe as Principal Herald and Garter King of Arms, "*Principalis Heraldus et officium incliti Ordinis Garterii Armorum Regis Anglicanorum*" (*Patent Roll, 1 Henry VII*), and on the 26th January 1503, Thomas Writhe *alias* Wallingford, was appointed Garter King of Arms in the place of John Wrythe, his father, deceased (*Rymer's Fœdera*). Anstis, in his "History of the Garter," says of this Thomas, "but though this officer was advanced to this employment by the monosyllabic surname that his father used, yet he disliked the shortness of it, and therefore augmented it with the high sound of three syllables, which added nothing to the smoothness in pronunciation, and after some variations in the spelling of it, he at last settled upon Wriothesley. And what is somewhat particular, in order to countenance this affectation he attributed this new coined appellation to all his paternal ancestors in the draughts he made of his own pedigree."

The above account by Anstis is literally true. On the De Banco Roll of Easter 11 Henry VIII, Thomas *Wrottesley* and Anne, his wife, were suing Henry Clifford, Kt., for Anne's dower in Goldenburgh, co. York.

At Trinity term, 13 Henry VIII, Ralph Wicliff, Armiger, sued Thomas *Wrottesley*, nuper de London, Armiger, *alias* dictus Thomas Garter, and Anne, his wife, for a debt of £300. In this year, however, Thomas changed his name to Wrothesley, and at Michaelmas term 13 Henry VIII, Thomas *Wrothesley*, Armiger, Rex *Armorum Anglicanorum*, sued Ralph Wicliff for an illegal distress.

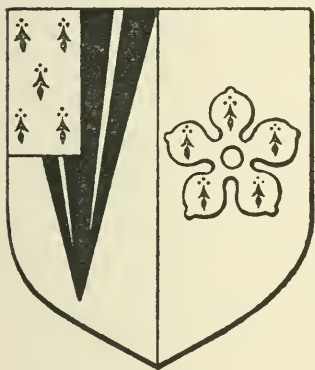
In another suit of 13 Henry VIII, under the name of Thomas *Wriothesley* *alias* Thomas Garter, he sued Ralph Wicliff for a debt of £300. Amongst the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum there is an elaborate pedigree which deduces the descent of this Thomas from a John de Wrottesley, of Grekland, co. Gloucester, living temp. Edward I. This pedigree, which was concocted for Sir Thomas Wriothesley, is a most ingenious compilation, for there really was a John de Wrottesley living temp. Edward I, a younger son of Sir William de Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, and there was also a John de Wrottesley, Abbot of Ford, living temp. Edward III, the existence of whom, perhaps, suggested to Thomas Writhe his change of name.

For the forgery and the falsification of documents this

Thomas stands pre-eminent even amongst the Tudor Heralds. His character has been exposed by Eyton in his "Antiquities of Shropshire," and more recently by Mr. J Horace Round in his "Studies in Peerage and Family History." He had a brother William, who was York Herald, and this William had a son Thomas, the famous Minister and Chancellor of Henry VIII. The last named Thomas was created Baron Wriothesley on the 1st January 1544; Knight of the Garter in 1545; Earl of Southampton in 1547; and died in 1550.¹

Any family might be proud to claim kinship with Henry Wriothesley, the third Earl, the friend and patron of Shakespear, or with Thomas, the fourth and last Earl, of whom Clarendon gives so high a character, but the facts are irresistible, and it is clear that there was no connection between the two families.

JOHN WROTTESLEY, 1563—1578.



This John is shewn to be son of the last named Walter by the deeds formerly at Wroottesley, by the Heralds' Visitations, and by his petition in Chancery to Sir Nicholas Bacon,² which is given below.

After his marriage with Elizabeth Astley he appears to have resided principally at Patshull, for he styles himself John Wroottesley, "of Pat-sell," in the above petition. The old Haukwall mill, on the boundary between the two properties, had been settled on him and his wife

at the date of his marriage, and in 4 Edward VI (1551), during the lifetime of his father, and in spite of his holding the property in tail only, he levied a Fine in conjunction with his wife Elizabeth, by which this mill was conveyed to his father-in-law, Thomas Astley, for a sum of fifty marks.³

The petition to the Lord Keeper was as follows:—

To the right Honorable Ser Nycholas Bacon Knyght and Lord Keeper of the Greate Seale of England.

In most humble wyse complaynyng Shewyth unto your honorable Lordshipp your orator and dayly Beadman⁴ John Wroottesley of

¹ The "Complete Peerage," by G. E. C., under Southampton.

² Chancery Proceedings, Series II, Bundle 192, No. 31.

³ Staff. Collections, vol. xii, p. 205.

⁴ To bede is to pray, in Old English.

Patsell in the Countie of Stafford Gentleman, that wheareas one John Romsall late of Lutteley in the sayd Countie was seased in his demeasne as of fee of and in a meaſe wyth appurtenances and one lesowe or pasture in Lutteley aforesayd and the same held of Walter Worseley (*sic*) Esquyer feather to your sayd orator, and lord of the manor of Lutteley by ij shyllings yerely, fealtie and sute to his Courte of Lutteley aforesayd, in chlyff, and the sayd John Romsall so beyng seased about three yeres last past at Gatacre in the Countie of Salop comytted a felonyous acte and thereupon was apprehended, indyted, arreyed, found gyltie, and putt to execucyon, by reason whereof the same meſe with the appurtenaunces, lesowe, and pasture came into the handes and possessyon of the late Kynge Philipp and Quene Mary for one year and a day next after, and after that to the said Walter Wrottesley (*sic*) beyng lord of the said maner of Lutteley, by the way of Eschete wiche Water Wrottesley by vertue thereof dyd entre into the seyd lesowe or pasture so of hym holden as lawfull was for hym to do, by force whereof he was seased in his demeane as of fee by the way of Eschete, and so beyng seased by his dede suffycient in the law and redye to be shewed, as well for a certeyne somme of money to hym in hand payd, as for other good causes and consyderations him specyally movynge, dyd infeffe your orator, sonne and heyre apparaunt of the sayd Walter of and in the said meſe wyth appurtenaunces and other the premysses, to have and to holde the sayd meſe, lesowe, and pasture and other the premysses with the appurtenaunces unto your orator and his heyres for ever, by force wherof he was seased accordyngly and so (*some words omitted here*) good and gracyous lord that one Rychard Sywode of Hylpole in the Countie of Worcester, John Marten, Thomas (*sic*) and Thomas Marten beyng evylle dysposed persons and indendyng to dysinheryte your orator of the premysses came unto the sayd meſe and other the premysses and then and there poled up fyve or syx . . . of sawed pales fast sett about the sayd meſe and xiiii other lyke posts and the same wythe dyvers bordes and . . . from the sayd meſe dyd roon and take away, some into the Countie of Worsester, and some into the Countie of Salop, and into other places to your orator unknownen to the greate hurt and losse of your orator, and also then and there toke from the sayd meſe dyvers and sundry evidences, muniments and charters concernynge the sayd meſe wythe appurtenaunces, and other the premysses to the intente to dysinheryte your orator of the premysses and for the cause the nombre and pleyntie of the sayd evidences, myniments and charters to your orator are unknownen and whether they be in Bagge or Boxe, sealed your orator knoweth not, wherefore he is thereby wythout remedy by the due order of the commen lawes. In consideration whereof may yt please your good lordshipp to graunt unto your orator the Quenes highness wryt of subpena to be directed unto the sayd Richard, John, Thomas and Thomas comaundyng them thereby personally to appeare before your Lordshipp at a certeyne day and under a certeyne payne by your Lordshippe to be lymytted

there to aunswere to the premysses accordyng to right and conseyence and at there apparaunce not onely to injoyne them to make delyverye of the sayd evidens so taken away unto your orator, but also to make to (him) recompense for the sayd pales posts, bordes and gystes so lykewyse taken away, and your orator shall dayly prey unto Almyghty God for your Lordshipp in honor longe to endure.

The above petition is undated, but must have been drawn up between the years 1558 and 1563, for Sir Nicholas Bacon was appointed Lord Keeper in the former year and John had succeeded his father Walter before the latter year.

John Wrottesley served the office of High Sheriff for Staffordshire in 1564, the year after he had succeeded his father.

In 1568 Walter, his eldest son, was married to Mary, the daughter and sole heir of Hugh Lee, of Woodford, co. Stafford, and by this marriage the family obtained eventually a considerable accession of property. By an indenture made on the 15th May 10 Elizabeth (1568) on the marriage of Walter Rotesley (*sic*), Gentilman, sonne and heir appaurant of John Wrotesley, of Wrotesley, co. Stafford, Esquire, with Mary Lee, daughter and sole heyre of Hugh Lee, of Woodforde, co. Stafford, Gentilman, the latter settled on Walter and Mary, and the heirs of the body of Mary, lands in the city of Lichfield, Longdon, Fulfen, Curburgh, Elmhurst, Wolverhampton and Bilston, together with the reversion after the death of Elizabeth, the wife of Hugh Lee, of the manor of Woodford and the tythes of Womburne and Orton. John Wrottesley, on his side, covenanted to convey an estate to Gilbert Astley, Esq., and John Talbot, Gentilman, in order to make a settlement upon Walter and Mary, with remainder after the death of Mary, upon the heirs of their bodies. It was, doubtless, in pursuance of this covenant that John Wrottesley levied a Fine in 14 Elizabeth (1572), by which, in conjunction with Walter, he enfeofed Gilbert Astley and John Talbot in the manor of Wrottesley. In this Fine the manor is said to have consisted of eight messuages, a cottage, two tofts, twenty gardens, twenty orchards, five hundred acres of arable land, two hundred acres of meadow, five hundred acres of pasture, four hundred acres of wood, and 5s. of rent. This corresponds very closely with the acreage of the present day, but the small amount of rent named shews that the manor had been already depopulated and was held almost entirely in demesne.

Woodford and the tythes of Womburne and Orton had formerly belonged to the Priory of Dudley, a cell of Wenlock Abbey, and on the dissolution of that house had been granted

in 32 Henry VIII to Sir John Dudley¹ (afterwards Duke of Northumberland). In the following year Sir John Dudley gave a lease of them to Hugh Lee for ninety-nine years. On the attainder of the Duke in 1553, they fell to the Crown, and Queen Mary granted them to Thomas Rees and George Colton. On the 7th July, 2 Mary (1554) the last-named feoffees conveyed to Edward Leveson and Humphrey Dickens, the Grange of Woodford and all tythes belonging to the same, which they held by the grant of Queen Mary, dated 21st June, 1 Mary (1554), and Edward and Humphrey granted them to Hugh Lee by deed dated 10th July, 2 Mary (1554).¹

In 13 Elizabeth (1571) with a view of providing for one of his numerous daughters, John Wrottesley purchased from Gilbert Astley, of Patshull, his brother-in-law, the wardship and marriage of Richard Whettell, a minor, and the son and heir of Richard Whettell, of Great Sheepy, co. Leicester, deceased. By an Indenture made between the two parties, Gilbert covenanted further:—

“That yf yt shall happen the seyd Rychard Whetell to deceasse att any tyme within the space of one year and a half next after he shall accomplysse and be of the ffull age of fowretyne yeares, and before he shall be marryed by the consent and appoyntment of the seyd John Wrottesley, his executors and assigns, & hys heyre or heyres then being wythin age, that then he the seyd John Wrottesley, his executors, &c., were to have the custodye wardshypp and marryage of the bodey or bodies of the same next heyre or heyres for and during the mynorytye of the same, and untill such tyme as the same heyre or heyres shall accomplysse and come to theyre full age or ages of consent and agreement to maryage, and by the space of one year and a halfe then next after, and so from heyre to heyre until such tyme as the seyd John Wrottesley his executors or assigns shall or maye have the full comodyte, benefyte and advantage of the marryage of the seyd Richard Whetell or any one his heyre or heyres.”

After which follows a clause giving power to John to sell the custody and marriage of the said Richard. The deed, however, ends as follows:—

“but as well that he the seyd John Wrottesley his executors &c. shall and will by the sufferance of God bestowe the marryage of the seyd Rychard Whetell wyth or upon one of the daughters of the seyd John Wrottesley and nother (no other) wyth nor

¹ Original deeds at Wrottesley, abstracted 1860-62. The tythes are described in the Priory deeds as those of Womborne, Orton, Trysnall, Seisdon and Wulmore. They were usually put out to farm by the Priors.

upon any other as also that he the seyd John Wrottesley his executors &c. shall att all tyme or tymes after the sealyng of these presents att hys or theyre owne proper coste and charge fynde and maynteyne as well the seyd Rycharde Whettell and such wyffe as he the seyd Rycharde shall fortune to marrye by the appoyntement and consent of the seyd John Wrottesley, meate, drynke, lodgyng and appayrell meete and convenient for them for and untill such tyme as he the seyd Rycharde Whettell shall accomplysse and be of the full age of xxi years."

This Indenture was witnessed by John Talbot and Humfrey Gyfford.

The price paid by John Wrottesley for the promotion of his daughter was £63 6s. 8d.¹

The age of consent for marriage was fourteen years, and it appears by the terms of this Indenture that in the case of these infant marriages it was usual to consummate the marriage as soon as the parties reached the age of puberty, the object being to entitle the bride to her dower, in the event of her husband dying under age, and before he could make a settlement upon her. On the 30th July 1577 Richard Whettell covenanted with John Wrottesley on his marriage with Dorothy, the daughter of John,² but he does not appear to have come of age until shortly before the 10th February 24 Elizabeth (1582). At this date John was dead, and the parties to the marriage settlement were Richard Whettell, of Great Shepey, co. Leicester, Gentilman, on the one part, and Elizabeth Wrottesley, widow of John Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, Esq., and Walter, son and heir of the said John, on the other part.² The over lordship of Great Sheepy had passed to the Astleys of Patshull, as heirs of the elder line of the Harcourts.³

In 1576 the Queen having decided to take the part of the Netherlanders against the King of Spain, a muster was made of the armed force of the Kingdom. In this muster, which is printed in the Staffordshire Collections, John Wrottesley was returned as liable for a lance and a light horseman.⁴ A lance at this date signifies a mounted man-at-arms clothed in armour. In musters of later date they are styled cuirassiers.

In November 1578 John was on his death-bed, and the following document was produced and proved in February 1578-9 as his last will:—

¹ Original deed at Wrottesley, copied 1860-62.

² *Ibid.*

³ Sir Thomas Astley, living temp. Richard II, had married Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Harcourt, of Stanton Harcourt, co. Oxon, but most of the landed property passed by settlement to the male line, a younger branch of the house (see the pedigree in *The Genealogist*, N.S., vol. xvii, p. 175).

⁴ Vol. iii, Staff. Collections, part ii, page 18.

"Certain wordes spoken by the right worshipfull John Wrottesley Esq. the 28th day of November a little before his death (21 Elizabeth) 1578. The said John Wrottesley Esquire being asked of Mr. Walter Wrottesley his son and heir what he would bestow upon his two sisters towards their preferment, and he said 300 marks apiece. Then the said Walter Wrottesley demanded where the 600 marks was or whether he would charge his executors with the payment thereof. And he said I cannot tell. Also the said Walter asked what he would give his brother that was in London. And he said, he hath 100 marks already, and I will give him 20 pounds more. Being asked where that was to be paid, and he said out of my landes at Butterson, then answer being made that it could not be paid out of those landes for that it was Mistres Wrotteslies her jointure, then the said John Wrottesley said, I will devise some other way. Also being asked what he would give his two youngest brethren and he said 10 pounds a piece of annuity. John Smith, Roger Onyons (his mark), W. Dunn, Richard Chillerton (his mark)."

Proved 10th February 1578, by Elizabeth Wrottesley, the relict.¹

John Wrottesley was buried in the Wrottesley Chancel at Tottenhall, where a very fine altar tomb, erected by his widow, still exists to his memory (see plate annexed). The tomb has effigies of John, in plate-armour of the time of Elizabeth, with a coat of mail protruding from under the cuisses. A heavy gold chain is wound twice round his neck, and he is shewn with beard and moustache, and with ruffs on the neck and wrists. Elizabeth Wrottesley is dressed in the closely-fitted velvet robe, with slashed sleeves and pomander, which is familiar to us from the portraits of Mary, Queen of Scots. She also wears ruffs round the neck and wrists. The bodice is not pointed as shewn in the pictures of Queen Elizabeth.

The inscription, which is in Gothic letters (except the number of the years) is as follows:—

Here lyeth the bodies of John Wrottley Esquire and Elizabeth his wyfe, which John died the xxviii daye of November anno d'ni 1578, which Elizabeth being wydowe, caused this tombe to be made anno domini 1580.

On the north side of the tomb are the effigies of eleven children, of which two being dead, are represented in shrouds.

In Ashmole's time the names of all these children were printed above their effigies, but they are now illegible. Ashmole has preserved their names as under:—Walter Wrottesley, son and heir, Thomas, Edward, John, Isabell, Mary,

¹ Wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. The orthography has been modernised by the copyist. The legal year did not end till the 25th March at this period.



Tomb of John Wrottesley Armiger and Elizabeth Astley, his wife,
Tettenhall Church, 1372.

Frances, Dorothy, Margaret and Elizabeth. He has apparently omitted the name of one of the children.

On the west end of the tomb are three shields, carved in relief, and bearing coats of arms. The centre shield has Wrottesley, impaling Astley and Harcourt, with a motto round it, "IN DIEV HISPIR," which is repeated in English, "In God is my hope." This was the old motto of Warwick, the King-maker. The other shields are Astley, impaling Harcourt, and Wrottesley singly. It is curious to note that the Harcourt coat is impaled with the Astley coat in place of being quartered with it, in the usual way.

The Visitation of Sir Richard St. George in 1614 names all the above sons, and the following daughters and their husbands:—1, Frances, married to Brooke, of Blackland, in the parish of Bobbington. 2, Dorothy, the wife of Richard Whittle, of Sheppey, co. Leicester. 3, Margaret, the wife of Richard Eld. 4, Elizabeth, the wife of Samuel Pye.

Thomas, the second son of John, died in 1610, apparently unmarried and childless, for his will has bequests only to his kinsman the Lord Dudley, his kinsman William Gatacre, Esqr., his brother-in-law Mr. Samuel Pye, and his kinsman Mr. Thomas Tomkys. In this will he is styled Thomas Wrottesleye, Esqr., of Wolverhampton, and the executor of it was his kinsman Hugh Wrottesley, of Woodford.

Edward, the third son, was the friend of Wirley, the antiquary, who speaks of him as "*immatura morte sublatus, et dum spirabat, mihi valde dilectus.*"¹

Of the fourth son John, nothing is known, and the two elder daughters appear to have died unmarried.

Frances, the third daughter, married first, John Brooke, of Blackland, and secondly, Ralph Drake, of Bobbington.

Dorothy married Richard Whethill, of Great Sheepy, co. Leicester, and died 10th October 1640 (Nicholl's "Leicestershire.")

Margaret, married Richard Eld, of Seighford, co. Stafford. This Richard had served in Ireland during the reign of Elizabeth, and had a coat of arms granted to him by Ulster King of Arms in 1574 (St. George's Visitation of Staffordshire, 1614). The male line of Eld became extinct in the present generation.

Elizabeth married Samuel Pye, of Bilston.

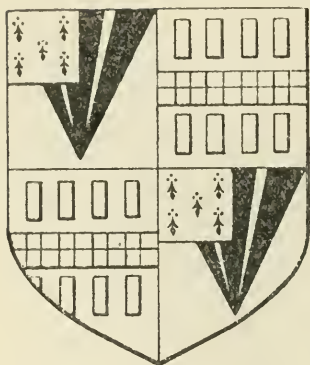
ARMS OF JOHN WROTTESELEY.

On the dexter side—Or, three piles Sable, a quarter Ermine, for Wrottesley.

On the sinister side—Azure, a cinquefoil Ermine, for Astley.

¹ Erdeswick's "Survey of Staffordshire," with notes by Harwood.

WALTER WROTTESLEY, 1578—1630.



Walter Wrottesley, who now succeeded to the property, is shewn to be son of the last John by the deeds formerly at Wrottesley, by the Heralds' Visitations, and by a Chancery suit temp. Elizabeth, which names his father John.¹ He must have been born before 1551, for in 1572 he was a party to a Fine respecting the manor of Wrottesley, and it has been shewn in the account of his father that he was married to his first wife Mary Lee, as early as 1568.

His father-in-law, Hugh Lee, died about 1576,² leaving a widow Elizabeth, who held most of the Lee property for her life; and as Elizabeth, the mother of Walter, had been enfeoffed in a large portion of the Wrottesley property, his means for the first part of his career must have been very limited. At the muster of the County made on the 8th November 1587, on the outbreak of the war with Spain, he was returned as liable for a single light horseman only, whilst the assessment of his father John in 1572 had been a lance, *i.e.*, a heavy horseman, and a light horse. As these military charges were based on the Subsidy Rolls, the assessment of John Wrottesley must have been quite treble that of his son. The review of the county was made by Sir Walter Aston and Richard Bagot, acting as Deputy-Lieutenants of the Earl of Shrewsbury, and they returned the names of sixty landowners who were to find between them sixteen lances and fifty-four light horse. It is remarkable as shewing how completely the degree of Knighthood had fallen into desuetude, that out of all this number of landowners, two only, Sir Walter Aston and Sir John Bowes, are named as Knights.

At the date of the purchase of the Tottenhall College in 1549, Walter Wrottesley, the grandfather of Walter, with licence of the Crown, had alienated from it the two Prebends of Pendeford and Bobenhill or Barnhurst. The lands of these Prebends were situated at some distance from Wrottesley, and this circumstance, no doubt, as well as pecuniary reasons, had been the motive for their alienation, but it was the cause of some inconvenience at a later date, for the owners of these

¹ Calendar of Chancery Proceedings, temp. Elizabeth, printed, vol. ii, Record Commission (*Walter Parker versus Walter Wrottesley*).

² Hugh Lee's will was dated in that year, but I have no note of the date when it was proved.

Prebends, being sheltered by the subjection of them to the capital manor of the Dean at Tettenhall, and having in consequence no fear of the Sheriff before their eyes, claimed to hold Courts Leet, and to have the view of frank-pledge.¹ The effect of this would have been to deprive the lord of the capital manor of waifs and strays and various amercements and Fines, and Walter Wrottesley determined to resist the claim.

"At the Court Baron of Walter Wrottesley, Armiger, of Tettenhall Clericorum, held on the 27th September, 33 Elizabeth (1591) before George Littelton, Armiger, Steward of the Court, the following Homage,

William Alport.
Thomas Wylkes,
Walter Phython.
Francis Fleming,
William Phesic.
Richard Southwyke.

Thomas Cooke,
John Perry,
William Southwyke,
John Grasley,
Richard Sabadye, and
Walter Wylkes,

were sworn and charged to deliver their verdict upon three articles laid before them as follows:—

1. Whether there be, or ought to be, or have been or used to be, any more leet in Tettenhall Clericorum than one, and to whom the same belongeth.

2. Whether the lybertye of wayfe and Estray be unto the lorde of the maner of Tettnall Clericorum and whether the sayd hath wayf and estraye within the whole maner of Tettnall Clericorum

3. Whether certayne groundes called Cranckeall were heretofore geven to the intente that the profytte thereof or any rent out of yt shoulde be employed for the fyndynge of a massinge preest to singe for the soles of some deceased, and when the same, or any rent or profit out of yt was last employed to any superstytious (*sic*) uses.

To the first the jurye saye that no other should or ought to have any leete in this maner or the towneshyppes or in any parte of any waste ground, land or the pedyemente or resydent in the lordshyp and towneshypp of Tettnall Clericorum or any of them, but only the lord of the maner of Tettnall Clericorum, and that so yt hath bene and ought to be used, and that the Deane only had before his leete there, and no prebend had any leete nor ought to have any, but all within the Prebends owe suyte to this Leete, as well within the prebend of Bobenhyl. Penford and Perton as those which dwell in the Prebends in the lords hande.

¹ If not subject to another Court Leet, the tenants of these smaller manors must have attended the Sheriff's view of frank-pledge, which took place twice a year at the Sheriff's "tourn."

To the second they say that the wayf and strays in this article mentioned, belong onely to the lord of the maner of Tettnall Clericorum, and that so yt hath been used alewayes, and that the Deane only before hed wayf and estrer and straves within any land of any of the Prebends as well those in the lordes hande as also in Bobenhyl. Penford and Perton belong to the lorde of the maner of Tettnall Clericorum.

To the thirde they say also that foure pound thirteene shyllinge and fowrepence was the twentyth yere of Kyng Henry the eight geven or lyvyed out of certein ground or the proffyth thereof called Cranekall toward the fyndyng and mayntenance of a massyng Preest to synge for soles for ever, and that the same contynued untill the fyrst yere of Kyng Edward the syxth, and that after that in tyme of Queene Mary a preest was mayntayned accordingly."

Here follow the signatures of the Homage, William Alport, Francis Flemyng, Richard Southwick and Walter Wylkys sign their names, the others affix a mark.

When one considers the origin of the institution of frank-pledge, by which the members of the tything or decennary were collectively liable for the crimes and delinquencies of any of the members composing it,¹ it is not likely that such small communities as these Prebends could have had their own view of frank-pledge, and the claim appears to have been dropped after the above presentment. The Court Rolls of Penford and Bobenhill, now in the possession of Mr. John Neve, of Oaken, shew, however, it was revived at a Court held in 1705, but at this date the franchise was of little or no value, and the claim appears to have passed uncontested.

Walter's mother, Elizabeth, died in 1592.² Her will describes her as "Elizabeth Wrottesleye, of Wrottesleye, wydowe, late wyffe of John Wrottesleye, Esquire, deceased," and she makes bequests in it "to my sonne and heir Walter Wrottesleye: to Hugh Wrottesleye, his sonne: my daughter, Margaret Elde; my daughter Elizabeth Pye; my sonne Thomas Wrottesleye; my daughter Frances Drake; my daughter Dorothy Whettyll; my sonne in law Rafe Drake; my sonne (*sic*) Richard Whettyll." Her executors were Walter Wrottesley, her son, and Humfrey Giffard, of Blackladies.

¹ The Tything or Decennary is supposed to have consisted originally of ten householders or heads of families, and these were liable for any person employed by them or forming part of their households, and they were bound to produce him if accused of any crime. If the accused fled from justice the Decennary was fined. In most cases the Manor and the Decennary were identical.

² Her will is dated 1592, and the inventory of her effects was taken in the same year (Wrottesley Muniments).

In 1598 Hugh, the eldest son of Walter, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Edward Devereux, of Castle Bromwich, a younger son of Walter Devereux, Viscount Hereford, and the settlements made on this occasion give considerable information respecting his family. The Court Roll of the manor of Wolverhampton of 7th October 40 Elizabeth (1598) states that Walter Wroottesley, Armiger, appeared in Court and surrendered to the lord of the manor, certain messuages, lands and tenements to the use of himself for life, with remainder to his son Hugh Wroottesley, Armiger, son and heir apparent of the said Walter, and to Margaret, the wife of Hugh, during the term of their lives, with remainder to the heirs male of the body of Hugh, and failing such to Walter Wroottesley, second son of the said Walter, for his life, with remainder to William, the third son of the said Walter, for his life, with remainder to the heirs male of the body of Walter, the father, with remainder to Thomas Wroottesley, brother to Walter, the father, and to the heirs male of his body, and failing such to George Wroottesley, Armiger, kinsman of the said Walter, the father, and to the heirs male of his body, and failing such, with remainder to the right heirs of Walter, the father, for ever.¹

By an indenture dated 10th May 41 Elizabeth (1599) made between Hughe Wroottesley, of Woodford Grange, in co. Stafford, Esquier, and Walter Devereux, some and heir apparent of Edward Devereux, of Castle Bromwich, in co. Warwick, Esquier, the said Hugh for and in consideration of a competent and sufficient jointure to be had for and in the behalfe of Margaret, now wife of the said Hughe and daughter of the said Edward Devereux, and for and in consideration of grest somes of money to him, the said Hughe Wroottesley by the said Edward Devereux before thens . . . in marriage with the said Margaret well and truly satisfied and payde, the said Hughe shall and will before the Feast of All Saints next ensuing, acknowledge one or more fyne or fynes in due form of lawe to be levied and recorded unto the said Walter Devereux of all and singular the manors, lands, tenements, etc., being nowe the inheritance of the said Hughe Wroottesley and which were sometyne the inheritance of Hugh Lea, Esquier, deceased, situated in Woodford Grange, Woodford, Tresle, Womborne Orton *alias* Overton, Typton, Bylston, Wolverhampton, Codsall, the Citie of Lichfeld, the Parish of Stowe near Lichfeld, Longdon and Curburgh, and it is further agreed between the said parties, that the said Fyne or Fynes shall be reputed to be to the uses hereafter expressed, and to none other

¹ Copy of Court Roll, formerly at Wroottesley.

use, intent or purpose, that is to saye to the use of the said Hugh Wrottesley and Margaret, his wyfe, and the heirs of the said Hugh, and to none other use or purpose.

Signed WALTER DEVEREUX.¹

This Fine apparently was never levied, it being found more convenient to include all the Wrottesley estate as well as the Lee property in a single Fine, which was levied two years later. The delay was caused by the necessity of obtaining the royal licence for the alienation of that portion of the property which was held *in capite*.

The licence to alienate is dated 1st April. 42 Elizabeth (1600) and gives permission to Walter Wrottesley, Armiger, and to Hugh Wrottesley, Gentleman, to alienate to Edward Littelton, Knight, and to Thomas Leighton, Armiger, all the late College of Totnall, co. Stafford, *alias* Totenhall, with its Prebends and land in Totenhall, Alderley, Wrottesley, Wightwyke, Codsall, Billebroke and Okyn, together with the rectory of Womburne and Orton, and tythes in Womburne and Orton, and with licence to reconvey the same (excepting the tythes of Billebroke and the rectory of Womborne and Orton, and the tythes in Womborne and Orton) to Walter Wrottesley for his life, with remainder after his death to Hugh Wrottesley and to the heirs male of his body, and failing such to Walter Wrottesley, son of Walter, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such, to the heirs male of the body of Walter, the father. And as regarded the tythes of Billebroke, to Walter, the father, for his life, with remainder to Hugh Wrottesley and Margaret, his wife, and to the heirs male of the body of Hugh, and failing such, to Walter, the son, and to the heirs of his body, and failing such with remainder as before. And as regarded the Rectory of Womborne and Orton, and the tythes of Womborne and Orton, to the said Hugh and Margaret, his wife, and to the heirs male of the body of Hugh, and failing such with remainder as before.²

On obtaining the licence to alienate, all the above property and the other Wrottesley estates were vested in the Trustees named above, by a Fine levied at Easter term 42 Elizabeth (1600). The Fine describes the property as consisting of the manors of Wrottesley, Tetnall Clericorum and Butterson, and thirty messuages, ten cottages, six tofts, two dovecotes, forty

¹ Wrottesley Miniments. After the death of Mary Lee, Walter Wrottesley had married a second wife, by whom he had issue, and the object of this indenture was apparently to prevent Hugh Wrottesley from alienating any part of the Lee property to his half-brothers, to the detriment of his children by Margaret Devereux.

² Licences to Alienate, 42 Elizabeth, vol. vii (Public Record Office).

gardens, thirty orchards, eight hundred acres of land, one hundred and fifty acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture, one hundred acres of wood, five hundred acres of furze and heath, one hundred acres of moor, twenty acres of land covered with water, and 50s. of rent in Wroottesley, Tetnall Clericorum, Butterson, Woodford, Tresle, Womborne, Wolverhampton, Typton, Grindon, Waterfall, Codsall, Billbroke, Orton and Wightwick, and of all tithes of sheaves, grain and hay, etc., in Codsall, Wroottesley, Billbroke, Tetnall Clericorum, Wightwick, Womborne and Orton, co. Stafford, and of the manor of Lychfield, and nine messuages, nine gardens, four orchards, one hundred acres of land, forty acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture and ten acres of wood in the City of Lichfield, the Parish of Stowe, near Lichfield, and in Longdon and Curburgh, in the Co. of the City of Lichfield.¹

Thomas Leighton, who occurs as a feoffee in these settlements, was brother to Joyce, the second wife of Walter. She was the widow of Francis Bromley, of Hallon or Haunde, co. Salop, and daughter of Sir Edward Leighton, of Wattlesborough, co. Salop.² Francis Bromley had died young, leaving an only daughter and heir Jane, who was under age, and this marriage must have been a very advantageous one for Walter, and added considerably to his resources. It appears to have taken place about 1595.³

In 1598 Walter Wroottesley was prosecuting in the Star Chamber one of his neighbours, James Barnesley, of Trysull, and seven others, for throwing down and burning his fences, and a sheepcote at Chaspell, near Kinver. The records of these Star Chamber proceedings hardly justify the unfavourable opinion of them given by historians. The action was begun by a petition to the Queen, by Walter Wroottesley and Elizabeth Barker, widow (the tenant), complaining of the trespass and injury. On the 13th February, 40 Elizabeth (1598) a writ was issued from the Queen's Chancery appointing Gamel Pype and Francis Wyghtewick, gentlemen, to take the answers on oath of the defendants, the parties to be assembled at Wolverhampton within fourteen days.

The next stage consisted of the drawing up of the interrogatories to be administered to the principal defendants. These were five in number. In their answers all the defendants denied any participation in the burning of the fences and sheepcote. James Barnesley, however, admitted in his answer

¹ Fines of Mixed Counties, 42 Elizabeth. It is included amongst these Fines as Lichfield was a separate County.

² Heralds' Visitation of 1663, and inscription on tomb at Codsall.

³ Under the name of Joyce Wroottesley, she accounts as executrix of Francis Bromley in 1596.

that the complainants and the former husband of Elizabeth had been in the possession of the tenements for more than seven years.¹

There is no conclusion to the suit, but it will be seen from this account of it, that the proceedings were prompt and probably inexpensive, being carried on at the very doors of the parties concerned. The Courts, however, were an innovation, and not having been established by Statute, were denounced as unconstitutional and abolished by the Long Parliament. They, however, must have met a want, and they probably took cognizance of causes which could not have been decided in the regular Courts. In this case Walter Wrottesley's interest was merely a reversion dependent upon two lives, and it is doubtful whether this would have given him a *locus standi* in an ordinary Court, and the unfortunate widow, whose sheepeote had been burnt, would have had small chance without his assistance of asserting her right, or obtaining any compensation for the injury.

Francis Bromley, of Hallon, the first husband of Joyce, the wife of Walter Wrottesley, had left an only daughter and heiress Jane. In former days the marriage of an heiress was a valuable possession, and usually sold for a very large sum of money.² Jane, however, had views of her own, and whilst negotiations for her marriage were in progress, ran away with William Davenport, the eldest son of Henry Davenport, of Chorley, co. Chester.

Amongst the Chancery Proceedings of February 1603-4, there is a suit of William Davenport, son and heir apparent of Henry Davenport of Chorley, and Jane his wife *versus* Walter Wrottesley of Wrottesley, co. Stafford, Esqr., and Joyce his wife, respecting the estate of Francis Bromley of Hawnde, Esq., deceased, the father of the said Jane.

Walter and Joyce stated "that about September last past twelmonth, the said complainant Jane being then young was by some practices or persuasions of the complainant William Davenporte (a man in worth and estate far unworthy of such a match, as these defendants verily think) priviley enticed and stolen away from the defendants' house at Wrottesley and married to him, the complainant William."

William Davenport replied that "he was in every way

¹ Star Chamber Proceedings, temp. Elizabeth.

² In 1600, George Wrottesley, the cousin of Walter, sold the marriage of his ward Thomas Jervois, of Britford, co. Wilts, to Sir Richard Paulett, for a sum of £1,100, and the Court of Wards and Liveries adjudged that the sum was insufficient. (Court of Wards and Liveries, Decrees, vol. iv, part 1, fol. 226). George Wrottesley had married the mother of the ward, and had purchased the wardship.

worthy to match with the said Jane, and that the marriage was no disparagement at all to her, neither did he entice or steal her away."¹

It would appear by the last sentence that Jane had asserted her rights as an heiress, and had made the first advances. It will be seen that her step-father and mother at this date had retained her property for about sixteen months after the elopement. An heiress, if married, would be entitled to enter into her property at fifteen years of age: but if married without the consent of her feudal lord, or his assignee, would be liable to be mulct in very heavy damages.

Walter served the office of Sheriff of the County in the year 1597-8, and Exchequer receipts between the years 1600 and 1604, formerly at Wrottesley, shew he was one of the Commissioners for collecting the Aid of the Fifteenth and Tenth granted by Parliament for the Spanish war. He was also included in the Commissions for the Peace for co. Stafford, issued by James I.² These are the only public functions with which I have found his name connected, and the paucity of these is, I think, due to his adherence to the Roman Catholic religion. The Astleys, his mother's family, were certainly of that faith, and his brother-in-law, Gilbert Astley, was married to a sister of John Giffard, of Chillington, one of the irreconcilable section, a non-juror and a Recusant.

In 1585, when there was a question of removing the Queen of Scots from Tutbury to Chillington, Sir Amias Poulett, in whose charge she had been placed, was ordered to report upon the accommodation of the house and its suitability for the safe custody of the Queen. On the 3rd October he writes to Walsingham:—

"Touching the state of the countrey, and the neighbours adjoyning I have taken care to infourme myself by the means of some men of credit in these parts and do fynd that the gentlemen of calling and countenance and best affected in religion such as Sir Walter Aston, Mr. Bagot and Mr. Greisley have their dwellings distant from Mr. Gifford's house some 10 miles, some 12, and the nearest 9: only Mr. Littleton a very honest religious gentleman, dwelling within 3 or 4 miles or thereabouts, so the sayd howse seemeth to be barren of good neighbours."³

Walter lived to a great age, for he survived till the 6th December 1630, at which date he must have been

¹ "History of Worfield," by the Rev. Samuel B. James, p. 21.

² State Papers, printed.

³ State Papers. Wrottesley would be the nearest house of any importance to Chillington, being only four miles from it. Pillaton Hall (at this date the seat of the Littleton family) is about seven miles off.

over eighty years of age. He had outlived his second wife, all his sons except the eldest, Sir Hugh Wrottesley, and he had even survived two wives of the latter. He was buried at Codsall on the 11th December 1630,¹ under an altar tomb which is shewn in the drawing annexed. His will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 31st January 1630-31, a codicil being added to it on the 5th December 1630, "in the time of his last sickness of which he died." He makes bequests in it of money or plate to his eldest son, Sir Hugh Wrottesley, Kt., his grandsons Walter and William Wrottesley, his grand-daughters Mary, Penelope, Elizabeth, Howard and Margaret, daughters of Sir Hugh Wrottesley: his daughter Dame Elizabeth Hewitt, wife to Sir Thomas Hewitt, Kt., and Walter Hewitt, eldest son of Sir Thomas; Walter Prince, eldest son of Richard Prince, Esqr.: Mary, his daughter, wife of Richard Prince, Esq.: and his nephew Walter Pipe. The bequest to Sir Hugh is in these words:—"To my sonne Sir Hugh Wrottesley, Kt., all my corne, cattell and household stuffe except one great chest, standing in the brushing chamber and my deske in my owne chamber, which with all the stuffe and things in them I have heretofore given to my two daughters, and to my said sonne all my plate except two of the best silver booles which his sonne William Wrottesley shall make choice of. To my grandchild Walter Wrottesley £100. and to Penelope my said son's daughter £30." He also makes bequests to the poor of Codsall, Wolverhampton, Patingham, Brewood, Tettenhall, Albrighton and Bridgenorth, some of which survive to the present day and are administered under the directions of the Charity Commissioners. For his monument at Codsall church he left £140. The residue of his personal estate was left to the three youngest daughters of Sir Hugh Wrottesley, viz., Elizabeth, Howard and Margaret.

The Inquisition on his death was taken at Cannock on the 23rd August 7 Charles I (1631) before Salomon Grosvenour, Gentleman, the King's Eschaetor. The jury stated that Walter Wrottesley, Armiger, who was named in the writ, was seised long before his death of the manor of Wrottesley with its members and rights and appurtenances, and of the manor of Butterson, with the same in Butterson, Grindon and Waterfall, and of the manor and College of Totenall *alias* Tetenall Clericorum, with its rights and members and pertinencies, and the site and Deanery of the said College, and the Prebends of Wrottesley and Codsall, of the foundation of the said College, with all lands, tythes, oblations, etc., in

¹ Codsall Registers.

Wrottesley, Tettnall, Oken, Alderley, Codsall, Wightwike and Bilbroke, and in 42 Elizabeth a Fine was levied in the Court of Elizabeth, late Queen, at Westminster, after proclamation made according to the form of the Statute, between Edward Littleton, Kt., and Thomas Leighton, Armiger, complainants, and the said Walter Wrottesley, Armiger, and Hugh Wrottesley, Gentleman, son and heir apparent of the said Walter, now a Knight, defendants, of all and singular of the said manors and other premises (*inter alia*) mentioned in the said Fine, and which Fine was levied to the following uses, viz., as regarded the manors of Wrottesley, Butterson and Tettnall Clericorum, to the use of the said Walter Wrottesley and his assigns, for the term of his life, without impeachment of waste, and after his death, the manor of Wrottesley to the use of John Littleton, Armiger, and Walter Skeffington, Armiger, and their assigns, for the life of Joyce, then wife of the said Walter, and after her decease, to the use of the said Hugh Wrottesley and the heirs of his body, and in default of such, to the use of Walter Wrottesley, the younger, son of the said Walter Wrottesley who was named in the writ, and to the heirs male of the body of Walter Wrottesley the son, and in default of such, to the heirs male of the body of Walter Wrottesley named in the writ, and failing such, to the use of the right heirs of the said Walter for ever; and as regarded the manors of Butterson and Tettnall Clericorum, and all the other premises (excepting the tythes of Bilbrooke) after the death of the said Walter, to the use of the said Hugh Wrottesley and the heirs male of his body, and failing such, to the use of Walter Wrottesley, the son, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such, to the heirs male of the said Walter named in the writ, and failing such, to the use of the right heirs of Walter for ever. And as regarded the tythes of Bilbrooke, after the death of Walter, to the use of Hugh Wrottesley and Margaret, his wife, and the heirs male of the body of Hugh, and failing such, to the use of Walter Wrottesley, the son, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such, to the use of the said Walter Wrottesley named in the writ, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such, to the use of the right heirs of the said Walter for ever, as was shewn by the clurograph of the said Fine.

And by a quadripartite Indenture bearing date 10th March 42 Elizabeth, between a certain Edward Devereux, then Armiger, on the first part, and the said Walter Wrottesley on the second part, the said Hugh Wrottesley on the third part, and the said Edward Littleton, Kt., and Thomas Leighton, Armiger, on the fourth part, which was produced in evidence under their seals, by virtue of the Statute of

4th February 27 Henry VIII, on the transfer of uses, the said Walter Wrottesley named in the writ was seised in his demesne as of fee, for the term of his life, and with the remainders and reversions thereof, of the said manors and other premises: and the said Walter died at Wrottesley on the 6th December last, and the said Hugh Wrottesley, now a Knight, is his son and nearest heir and fifty-five years of age and upwards, and the said manor of Wrottesley with its rights and members was held of the lord the King, as of the Abbey of Evesham in socage by a rent of 13s. 4d., and was worth beyond reprises, £10. And the said manor of Butterton, with its rights and members in Butterton, Grindon and Waterfall was held of the lord the King as of the Honour of Tutburie, by fealty and in socage, and was worth £3 6s. 8d., and the said manor of Totnall *alias* Tetnall Clericorum, and the site and Deanery of the College and the Prebends of Wrottesley and Codsall, and the tythes in Wrottesley, Tetnall, Oken, Codsall, Wightewike and Bilbrooke were held of the lord the King by military service and by the eightieth part of a Knight's fee and were worth £6 13s. 4d.¹

By his first wife Mary Lee, Walter had issue an only son Hugh, born in 1570. By his second wife Joyce Leighton, he had two sons William and Walter, and two daughters Elizabeth and Mary.

The two sons by his second wife both died young. William was buried at Codsall on the 24th April 1599, and Walter was buried at the same place on the 30th July 1602. His second wife Joyce was buried at Codsall on the 26th December 1614.²

The Codsall Register also records that "Mr. Richard Prynee and Mrs. Mary Wrottesley were married in Wrottesleye Chapell on the 16th June 1618, by me Thomas Pytt." The settlement made on the marriage of Mary is dated the 11th May 16 James I (1618), and describes her husband as "Rychard Prynee, Esqr., the younger, brother and heyre of Sir Francis Prynee, Kt., deceased, eldest son and heir of Richard Prynee, the elder, deceased, late of Eastefforgate *alias* Monck Forgate, Salop, Esqr."³ Her husband was afterwards knighted.

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, married into a very wealthy family. Her husband was Sir Thomas Hewitt, of Shireoaks, co. Notts, a place which derived its name from a group of oak trees at the junction of the three counties of Derby, Nottingham and York. The Hewitts acquired great wealth

¹ Chancery Inq. P.M., Bundle 50, No. 216. The values given for lands in these Inquisitions are quite fictitious and appear to be conventional, for they usually agree with those given in the ancient Inquisitions of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

² Codsall Registers.

³ Original deed formerly at Wrottesley.



Tomb of Walter Mottesley Armiger.
Codsall Church, 1650.

as cloth-workers, and Sir Willam Hewitt was Lord Mayor of London in 1559-60. His only daughter and heir Anne married Sir Edward Osborne, the ancestor of the Dukes of Leeds. Sir Thomas Hewitt, who married Elizabeth Wrottesley, was son of Henry Hewitt, also a rich merchant of London. Sir Thomas was Sheriff of co. Notts, in 3 Charles I, and left issue.¹

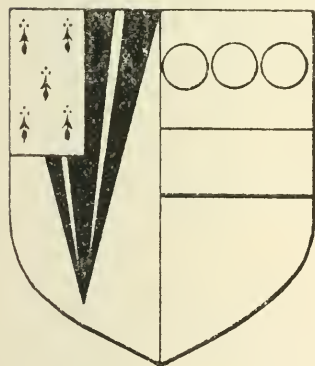
Walter Wrottesley lies buried in the chancel of Godsall church, under a handsome altar tomb, of which a photograph is appended. He is shewn in the armour of the period, with his five children in relief—kneeling in the panels of the altar front—under an arch and above the monument are two shields to represent his two wives, first Wrottesley, impaling Lee of Langley, and secondly Wrottesley, impaling Leighton. Between the two shields, on a mural tablet, is the following inscription:—

"HERE LIETH WALTER WROTTESELEY OF WROTTESELEY
ESQUIRE WHO MARRIED MARIE DAUGHTER AND
HEIRE TO HUGH LEE OF WOODFORD ESQRE. BY
WHOM HE HAD ISSUE SIR HUGH WROTTESELEY KT.
SECONDLY HE MARRIED JOYCE DAUGHTER TO SIR
EDWARD LEIGHTON OF WATTLESBOROUGH KT.
BY WHOM HE HAD ISSUE 2 SONS AND 2 DAUGHTERS,
WHICH WALTER DYED THE VITH DAY OF DECEMBER 1630."

ARMS OF WALTER WROTTESELEY.

Quarterly—Or, three piles Sable, a quarter Ermine, for Wrottesley; and Gules, a fess chequy, Or and Azure, between eight billets Argent, for Leigh, of Langley.

SIR HUGH WROTTESELEY, 1630—1633.



co. Stafford, matriculated 15th April 1586, aged sixteen."

Walter Wrottesley was succeeded by his eldest son Hugh, who was in possession of his patrimonial estates for so short a period, that the principal events of his life must be looked for in the lifetime of his father. The Inquisition on his father's death states that he was fifty-five years of age and upwards in 1630, but he must have been nearer sixty, for his matriculation papers at Oxford state that "Hugh Wrottesley, of St. John's College, son of Walter Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, co. Stafford, matriculated 15th April 1586, aged sixteen."

¹ "History of Worksop," 1890.

His parents were married in 1568, and he was doubtless born, as shewn by the matriculation papers, in 1570, for he could hardly have entered the University before he was sixteen years of age.

After the death of Elizabeth Lee, his grandmother, Hugh came into possession of Woodford Grange, in Wombourne parish, and this was his place of abode during the greater part of his life. He married his first wife, Margaret Devereux, about the year 1598, and the first part of his married life seems to have been spent in the house of his father-in-law at Castle Bromwich. The Parish Registers of Aston, near Birmingham, record the baptism in 1602 of "Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Rochley, sojourning at Castell Bromwich," and her burial in 1603. And in the same registers there is this entry under 1606, May 6th, "Walter, the sonne of Mr. Hughe Wrochley, of Wrochley, and his heire apparant was baptized at Castle Bromwich."

Margaret Devereux, the first wife of Hugh, died in 1615,¹ leaving two sons, Walter and William, and several daughters. Shortly after her death, Hugh married for a second wife Clara, the widow of William Sneyd, of Keele, co. Stafford, and a daughter of Sir Anthony Coleclough, of Tintern Abbey, co. Wexford.² He does not appear to have had any children by her, for her will names only Master Wrottesley (Walter, her stepson), who would be then fourteen years of age, and Penelope, Mary, Dorothy and Susannah Wrottesley. Amongst her bequests was one of £10 to the Lady Devereux to buy Dorothy Wrottesley a diamond ring. She died in January 1620-21, and was buried at Tettenhall. Her will was proved in the same year in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

Sir Hugh was knighted on the 26th August 1617 at Nantwich in Cheshire, during one of the progresses made by James I in the Midland Counties,³ and in the following year he served the office of Sheriff of the County. In 1625, in the first year of Charles I. he obtained a general pardon under the Great Seal, dated 10th February, for all treasons and felonies, etc., perpetrated before the previous 27th March. Most men of property who had served any office under the Crown in former days, obtained these pardons, for they contained a clause exonerating them from all demands or claims of the Exchequer.

¹ Tettenhall Registers. She was buried on the 18th September 1615.

² The Colecloughs held also considerable property in the north of Staffordshire.

³ "Nantwich, 26th August 1617. The same day the King knighted Sir Hugh Wrottesley and Sir William Owen, of Conover, and in the afternoon proceeded on his way to Gerards Bromley, in Staffordshire, with his own retinue and a train of the principal gentry of Cheshire" (Nicholl's "Progresses of Elizabeth and James I").

In 1627 Sir Hugh was appointed by the Earl of Monmouth, the King's Lieutenant of the County, to be one of his Deputies. It is curious to contrast the number of Deputy-Lieutenants in the reign of Charles I with those of the present day. The total number of Lieutenants in 1627 was six only, consisting of:—

Sir Walter Aston, Knight of the Bath and Baronet.	Sir Walter Chetwynd, Kt. Sir Hugh Wrottesley, Kt.
Sir Thomas Leigh, Knight and Baronet.	Sir William Bowyer, Kt., and Ralph Sneyd, Esquire.

On the 4th August 1630 a Commission was issued to Robert, Earl of Essex, Walter, Lord Aston, Sir Hugh Wrottesley, Kt., Sir William Bowyer, Kt., and Richard Weston, Esq., "to treat and compound with all those in the Co. of Stafford, who by law are to make fine unto us for not appearing at the time and place by our writs to that purpose appoynted for receiving the Order of Knighthood." The proceedings of this Commission have been printed in volume ii of the Staffordshire Collections.¹ The first Commission being found unwieldy was followed by another, dated 12th February 1630-31, addressed to Sir Hugh Wrottesley, Sir William Bowyer, Thomas Crompton, and Richard Weston, and these four made the compositions and signed the proceedings.

After the disputes between Edward I and his Barons, respecting the liability to military service in 1297, it had been finally decided that all those holding as much as £40 in lands or rents were bound to accept Knighthood, or pay a Fine to the King in lieu of it; and this liability had been expressly recognised in Parliament by the Statute *de militibus*, in the reign of Henry VI. In the seventeenth century the change in the value of money had rendered many of the middle classes liable to compulsory Knighthood under this Statute, and the proceedings of the Committee of 1631 shew that 203 gentlemen and yeomen of the county paid fines varying from £50 to £10 for having failed to appear in pursuance of the King's proclamation, which had been issued at the date of his Coronation.

It may be asked, why, if this was the case, all these persons had not taken upon themselves the degree of Knighthood. But the answer to this is, that obligatory Knighthood was no honor, and the fees exacted from those who appeared in answer to the summons were very largely in excess of the Fines inflicted for their non-appearance.²

¹ Volume ii, Staffordshire Collections, part ii, page 1. The account contains an admirable preface by the late H. Sydney Grazebrook.

² The Earl Marshal had a right to a palfrey and saddle, from every one made a Knight at a Coronation, and this was only one of the many fees exacted on these occasions. See Red Book of the Exchequer, by Hubert Hall, p. 759.

Hugh's eldest son, Walter, married in 1625, Mary the daughter of Ambrose Grey, of Enville, co. Stafford. Her father was the second son of Lord Grey of Groby, who was the nephew and representative in the male line of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, the father of Lady Jane Grey. On the point of blood and connection, therefore, no fault could be found with the marriage, but it was contracted clandestinely, against the consent of his father, when Walter was under age, and Sir Hugh lost by it a large sum which would have been obtained by the marriage of an eldest son in those days, and which would have enabled him to provide portions for his younger children. In his letters formerly at Wrottesley, Sir Hugh lays great stress on the pecuniary embarrassments of Ambrose, and hints that he had connived at the clandestine marriage in order to save the marriage portion of his daughter. Eventually the quarrel was made up, and Sir Hugh took advantage of his relationship to purchase the mortgages on a large portion of the estate of Ambrose. On the 11th May, 9 Charles I (1633) Henry Little, the principal mortgagee, covenants with Sir Hugh that such persons that hold the leases, Statute Merchants, and Escheats of the Manors of Tresle (Trysull), Seisdon, Orton, and Womborne, to his use and appointment, shall hold them for the use and benefit of Sir Hugh,¹ but the purchase was not completed for some years afterwards, for Sir Hugh died on the 28th May following, less than three weeks after the date of the above deed.

The necessity for finding the money for this purchase forced him to renounce his intention of acquiring a Baronetcy. His brother-in-law, Sir Walter Devereux, writes to him from London near Essex Gate 1632, that he understands that "somebody had possessed him that Sir Thomas Blother, of the Privy Chamber, offered him to be a Baronet for £300, and that the King would make many for £200 or £300: that the King was reserved: one offered £800 and could not get it, and he thought he had performed the office of brother in getting it for him for £500; if he had not been his brother-in-law and a descendant of a founder of the Garter, he had not got it so low."

The Inquisition on Sir Hugh's death was taken at Wolverhampton on the 20th August 9 Charles I (1633), before Zachary Babington and John Birch, Gentlemen deputed for the purpose.² The jury stated that long before the death of the Hugh Wrottesley named in the writ, Walter Wrottesley, armiger, the father of Hugh, was seised of the manors of

¹ Original Deed formerly at Wrottesley.

² John Birch was the family lawyer of the Wrottesleys.

Wrottesley, Butterton and Tetnall Clericorum, and of the Deanery and College of Tetnall, together with the Prebends of Wrottesley and Codsall founded in the said College, and of the lands, tithes, oblations, etc., in Wrottesley, Tetnall, Oken, Alderley, Codsall, Wightwick and Bilbroke, and a Fine was levied in 42 Elizabeth. (*Here the jury quote the Fine of 42 Elizabeth and the quadripartite Indenture named in the Inquisition on Walter Wrottesley the father of Sir Hugh.*) And the said Hugh Wrottesley, long before his death, was seised in demesne as of fee of a messuage and divers tenements and hereditaments called the manor of Woodford, or Woodford Grange, and the Rectory of Womborne, and the manor of Lychefeld, and nine messuages, nine gardens, four orchards, one hundred acres of land, forty acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture and ten acres of wood in Lychefeld, and in the parishes of Stowe, Longdon, and Curburgh (formerly Lees) and the said Hugh by a Fine and indenture had conveyed the said Grange, Rectory and manor of Lychefeld to the use of the said Hugh Wrottesley, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Edward Devereux, Kt. and Baronet, now deceased, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such to the use of the said Walter Wrottesley, the father, and the heirs male of his body, and failing such to the use of the right heirs of the said Walter for ever.

And the said Hugh, before his death, was seized in demesne as of fee of a messuage, a chapel, a cemetery, and a pasture called Preistfield in Bilston, and of a messuage, four shops, thirty acres of land and ten acres of meadow in Wolverhampton and Codsall (formerly Lees), and of two messuages, forty acres of land, ten acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture in Frodley (Frodesley), co. Salop (late Scrivens), and of seventy acres of land, ten acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture in Bridgenorth, co. Salop (formerly Thornes), and the moiety of a lead mine, and salt works in Draytwich, co. Worcester, and a house and chapel and six acres of land in Trimpley, co. Worcester (formerly Lees), and that Hugh died on the 28th May last (1633), and Walter Wrottesley, Armiger, his son, is his nearest heir, and is twenty-five years of age and upwards. The manor of Wrottesley was held of the King in socage, as of his Abbey of Evesham for 13s. 4d. annually, and was worth £10.

Butterton and its members were held of the King as of the Honor of Tutbury in socage, and not in capite, nor by Knight's service, and was worth £3 6s. 8d.

The manor and College of Tettnale Clericorum, and the Prebends of Wrottesley and Codsall, and the tythes of Tetnale, Wrottesley, Oken, Alderley, Codsall, Wightwike, and Bilbrooke, were held of the King by Knight's service and one-eightieth part of a Knight's Fee, and were worth £8.

The manor of Woodford or Woodford Grange was held of the King, as of his manor of East Greenwich, by fealty in free socage, and was worth £3 12s.

The Rectory of Womborne was held in capite by one-tenth of a Knight's Fee, and was worth £3 12s.

The manor of Lychefeld and the premises in the county of Lychefeld were worth £12, tenure not known.

Preistfeild was held of the lord of the manor of Shensstone in socage, and all the premises named in Bilston, Wolverhampton, and Codsall were worth £10 11s., and were held of the King as of his manor of East Greenwich. The lands in Bridgenorth were worth 10s., tenure unknown, and the land in Frodley was worth 10s., tenure not known, and the lands, etc., in Worcestershire were worth 40s., and the tenure was not known.¹

How conventional these values were will be understood when it is stated that the Committee for compounding the sequestered estates of Royalists only thirteen years after this date, estimated the value of the Wrottesley property at £703 a year, or more than twelve times the estimate given in the Inquisition.

Sir Hugh's will was dated 1633, and was proved in the same year. He makes bequests in it to his son William, his son and heir Walter, and his daughters Mary, Penelope, Elizabeth, Howard, Margaret, and his daughter Bressy. The latter was his youngest daughter Dorothy, who married in 1631 Henry Bressy, or Bracy, of Escott, co. Warwick.² Besides these daughters, he had another named Susanna, who was married in 1623 to Reginald Corbett, of Pontesbury,³ and who appears to have died before her father. William, the second son, was very wild, and a cause of great trouble to his father. In June 1630, he was at school at Coventry, and the schoolmaster, Samuel Foster, writes to Sir Hugh, to complain that a week before breaking-up at Christmas, Sir Hugh's son shut up the schoolroom and kept the place half a day and a night, shot a pistol at him, wounding him in the thigh and legs and damaged his dress, for which he asked £10 for remuneration. His father left him the property at Frodesley, co. Salop, and he afterwards married one Anne Chamberlain. In 1640 he was living in Herefordshire. Anne, daughter of Mr. Rottesley, Gentleman, and Anne his wife, was baptized at Almeley, co. Hereford, 9th July 1640, and Walter Wrottesley, Gentleman, was buried there 10th April 1664.⁴

¹ Court of Wards, Bundle 53, No. 211.

² Marriage settlement, formerly at Wrottesley, and Heralds' Visitation of 1663.

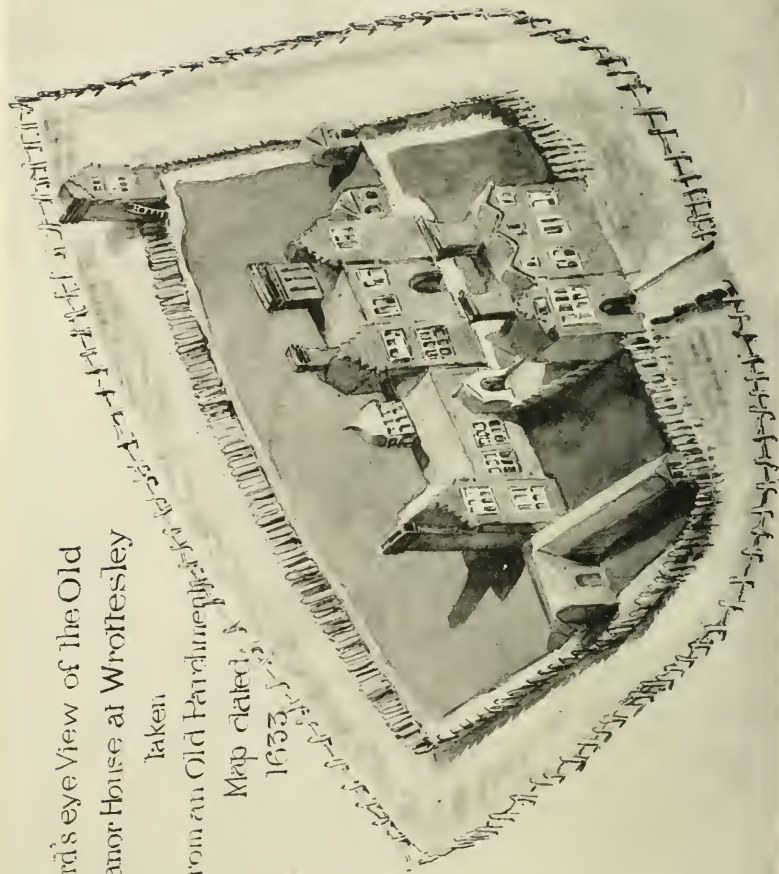
³ Codsall Registers and Harl. MS. 1173, fo. 51.

⁴ Grazebrook's Notes to Dugdale's Visitation of Staffordshire of 1663, vol. v of Staffordshire Collections. William Wrottesley's will was dated 31st January 1642-3, and was proved on the 5th March 1645-6. He is described in it as

Bird's eye View of the Old
Manor House at Wrothlesley

taken

from an Old Parchment
Map dated 1633



Of the other daughters of Sir Hugh, Mary married, for a first husband, John Lougher, of Perton, and for a second husband, Edward Williams, of Dudley.¹

Penelope had also two husbands, for she occurs first as Penelope Collett, and in 1636 as Penelope Mill.¹ Nothing is known of either husband.

Elizabeth married Walter Hopton, of Stretton Grantham, co. Hereford.¹

Howard married first, William Blunden, of Bishops Castle, co. Salop, and secondly, John Wingfield, of Shrewsbury.²

Margaret married Jonathan Langley, of Shrewsbury.³

After the death of Sir Hugh, an Inventory was made of his effects in the house and stables, and it is proposed here to give a few extracts from it, as it illustrates the mode of life and accommodation in a gentleman's country house in the reign of Charles I. It shews also the offensive and defensive arms maintained at the same period in a time of peace. A drawing of the house is appended, taken from an old parchment estate map of the same date, which gives a bird's-eye view of it, shewing the moat and palisading which surrounded it. This palisading, or "palitia," is the humble origin of the words Palace and Palatine, all important buildings having been surrounded with one in primitive days. When the palisading was made of whole trunks of trees squared, it proved a very effective defence, as we know from our experience against the New Zealanders' "Pah," and if surrounded by a wet moat, it was very difficult to assault. At the time when Sir Walter Wrottesley compounded for his estates in 1645, the house, from a defensive point of view, was stated to be very strong.

OLD INVENTORY AT WROTTESELEY, DATED 3RD AUGUST 1635.

In ye halle.

Compleate armur for the bodies of twelve men, whereof two are for horsemen.

One case of pistolls.

his wife, Anne, who on the 5th March 1645-6. He is described in it as late of the Parish of Embley was left executrix, and his sons, Walter and Thomas, his daughters Margaret and Anne, his sisters, Howard, Dorothy and Elizabeth, and his mother-in-law, Margaret Chamberlain. His eldest son, Walter, was under age. By his will he devises the property in Frodesley, co. Salop, to Leicester Devereux, Esq., Thomas Chamberlain, of Broadway, co. Worcester, Gentleman, and others named, as trustees for the benefit of his children. Court of Probate, London (32 Twisse).

¹ Dugdale's Visitation of Staffordshire, 1663, printed in vol. v of Staffordshire Collections.

² Ibid., and marriage settlement at Wrottesley dated 1650. Howard, used as a christian name, was derived from the Devereux connection. Sir Edward Devereux had a daughter, Howard, who married Thomas Dilke, of Maxstoke, co. Warwick. Howard Dilke would be therefore aunt to Howard Wrottesley.

³ Visitation of Staffordshire, 1663.

Fower Gawnletts.
 Three coates of maile.¹
 one buffe coate.
 one quilted coate.
 A case of horsemen's pistolls.
 Nyne and twentye head peeeces.
 Forty swordes with belts.
 Twelve pikes armed.
 eleven Holbeards.
 Three battle axes.²
 Twelve musketts and their restes.
 Fower calyvers.
 Sixteen Bandeliers.
 A knotte of match, one other muskett.
 Two staves for horsemen.
 A drum and case.
 A boxe of bullets
 Two brazen candlesticks hanging on the walles.
 Twelve leather buckets.
 Twenty and seven pikes unarmed.
 Eighteen staves whereof one hath a pike.³
 Fower tables, seaven formes, whereof one a short one, one cup-board, one olde Bible, and a lanthorne.

In ye Great Parlour.

Three tables and carpetts (some words here are illegible).
 One cupboord and cupboord cloth.
 One dozen of chairs with upper covers of red leather, as many stooles covered in like maner.
 One couch chair.
 One other chair of Turkie worke.
 A child's chair, one dozen plaine joynd stooles and an olde one behind the parlour dore.
 Fower window curtains
 Eleven Turkie work cushions.
 A nedle work cushion.
 One skryne (screen), two trunckes, a leading staffe, an anglerodd.
 Three pair of playing tables, snuffers, fyer pan and tonges suteable, one pair of bellowes, and fower handskrynes.
 A paire of organs, one comon prayer book, two bibles, a pair of virginals.
 Seaven twiggen garlands.

¹ A later Inventory, dated 1642, mentions five coats of mail and *one mail cappe*. Mail caps had not been worn under the helmet since the reign of Henry III. The coats of mail, too, must have been very ancient.

² These must have been very old, probably dating from the Crusades.

³ In 1634 there is an agreement by John Hodges, Cutler of Wolverhampton, to keep in repair the armour and arms in the Hall at Wrotesley for £3 per annum. The arms are specified to be "complete munition for forty men."

Fowerteene pictures.
 A paire of brasse andirons.
 A clocke, and one mappe.

In ye Dynyngge Roome.

Two drawinge tables.
 One cupboard. Three carpetts.
 One couche chair, one dozen of other chaires, and one dozen of stooles with false covers of red leather to them all.
 One half dozen needle work cushions, another half dozen of cushions of another sorte, a great pair of brasse andirons, a fyre pan and tonges suteable, a pair of bellows.

In myne owne lodgyng chamber.

One standing bedsteade with curtaines, valense, counterpoint, redde rugge, and one white blankett.
 A double bed with two boulsters and one pillow, and bed matt thereto.
 A trundle bed with canopie and curtaines, one yeallowe rugge, one white blankett, a feather bedd, one boulster, a pair of pillowes, and a bed matt.
 A trundle bed, with feather bed and boulster, two blanketts, and one rugge, and a bed matt.
 Three chaires, a cupboard and one table with carpett, five window curtaines, a warmeing pan, fire pan and tonges of iron, a pair of bellowes, one arasse cushion, and two brushes.

In ye yeallow Chamber.

One Bedsteade with curtains, valanse, feather bed, one boulster, two pillows, one counterpointe, one yellow rugge, three blancketts and one bed matt.
 One cupbord and cloth, one windowe curtaine, one couche chair, one other chaire and two lowe stooles, covered ut supra (red leather), one brasse paire of andirons, with fyre pan and tonges suteable, a paire of bellows.

Then follow the contents of:—My wyves closet. Ye white chamber. Mistress Elizabeth's chamber. Mr. William his chamber. Ye parlour chamber, ye middle chamber, and five other chambers which are furnished in a similar manner, except that most of them have a trundle bed in addition to the standing bedstead. The latter appears to be the old four-poster.

Three servants, William Bostocke, John Betinson and John Smythe, have each a chamber to themselves, and there are, in addition, "ye three bed chamber," "ye maide's chamber," "ye children's chamber," "ye cockloft chamber," and "ye nursery," which had no bedsteads. There were no wash-hand stands in any of the rooms, nor any means of ablution whatever, but in the pantry were kept some pewter basins and "fower bende-

ware cans whereof the chambermaids keepe one to fetch water." The pantry also contained sixe beere glasses and eight wyne glasses, but the usual drinking cup was the horn cup and the "noggen," of which a large quantity were kept in the kitchen.

In the kitchen also were kept seven and fortie great wooden bowles and dishes, threescore dishes of sundry sorts, and a number (illegible) of trenchers.

The Inventory also contains the articles kept in the "Wet Larder," the pastrie, the brewhouse, the Dayrie and the Store howse.

The list of linen seems respectable. It consisted of—

Holland sheetes, ten pair.

Flaxen sheetes, eleven pair.

Hempen sheetes, fifteen pair.

Hurden sheetes, eleven pair and one odd sheete.

Pillow beeres, eleven paire.

Fyne pillow beeres, three pair.

Flaxen table clothes, eight.

Fine flaxen towells, three.

Hempen and hurden towells, seventeene.

Cupboard clothes, nyne.

Hempen napkins, two dozen and three odd ones.

Hurden napkins, three and twentie.

New table clothes, five.

Cupboard clothes, three.

Napkyns, sixe dozen.

Old dyaper napkyns, fower dozen.

New longe table clothes of dyaper, three.

New dyaper napkyns, Two dozen and a half.

Of another sort, two dozen.

Short table clothes, eleven.

Dyaper towells, nyne.

Damask napkyns, five

Drinking napkyns, three.

One longe table clothe of fyne dyaper, two short ones, and two dozen of napkyns.

The silver plate consisted of—

Three basins and Fwers (. . .), torn off.

Six bowles, Two great (. . .) torn off.

Two candlesticks one (. . .) with cover.

A Communion cup with cover.

A chafinge dish.

Two great salts.

Eight trencher salts.

Eight vinegar boates.

Twentie and fower slipt spoones.

Twelve apostle spoones.

Fifteene spoones daylie in use.

One dozen of plates.

Five pottingers.

A Colledge cup, gilt, with cover.

One other pottinger.

Fower Cawdle cups, whereof two with covers.

A sugar boxe and a sugar dish.

Fower gilt spoones.

Two large preserving spoones.

Five other spoones.

A carving fork.

A little bole for hot water

Two dishes.

A pair of snuffers.

N.B.—The sugar dish was exchanged for another pottinger the last day of December 1635, and then was bought a silver scummer and an extinguisher.

The old house comprised, therefore, the hall, the dining room, the great parlour, thirteen best bedrooms, and five servants' rooms, containing altogether twenty-five beds; a nursery, and usual offices. None of the bedrooms had carpets, but every bedroom had a bed mat.

There were no table knives or forks. The latter did not come into general use before the reign of Charles II, and for cutting up meat everyone must have used his own sheath knife or dagger.

There was a considerable stock of linen, and tablecloths and napkins were in use, and even the servants appear to have had sheets to their beds. A few glasses are named, but no hardware or crockery, and trenchers of wood and horn cups were apparently used on all ordinary occasions, and silver at other times. Coal does not appear to have been burnt, except perhaps in the kitchen and offices, for the other rooms had each a fire pan and tongs and a pair of bellows, but no pokers. The latter would not be required with wood fires.

In the stables there were fifteen effective horses and three young ones, and it is probable that there were more out at grass, as the date of the Inventory was the 3rd of August. Four of these horses are called stud horses, and there were four mares, of which three had "sucking" colts or fillies. All the horses were branded.

At this date the old Wrottesley Park was stocked with red deer, and there were eighteen hounds kept in the kennels. Their names were written on a slip of paper attached to the Inventory and they are given here to shew how ancient and conventional the names of our foxhounds are. Nearly all the names written below are to be found in packs of hounds at the present day. They were—

Woodman
Thunder
Mankin
Dolphin
Beauty
Bouncer

Courtier
Bonny
Ranger
Kilbuck
Ringwood
Duchess

Trouncer
Jumper
Blewman
Gipsy
Rockwode
Maybe.

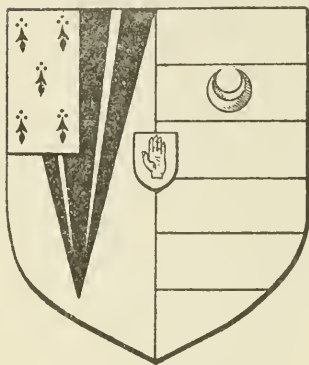
Sir Hugh was buried at Tettenhall on the 1st June 1633.¹

ARMS OF SIR HUGH WROTTESELEY.

On the dexter side—Or, three piles Sable, a quarter Ermine, for Wrottesley.

On the sinister side—Argent, a fess Gules, and in chief three roundels of the last, for Devereux.

SIR WALTER WROTTESELEY, BART., 1633-59.



Walter, the eldest son of Sir Hugh Wrottesley, was born in May 1606, at Castle Bromwich, near Birmingham,² the residence of his maternal grandfather, Sir Edward Devereux. At the date of his accession to the property, his father's livery had not been discharged by the Court of Wards and Liveries, nor were all the formalities completed before the following 10th of July, when the Court issued the discharge in the following terms:—

Court of Wards and Liveries, 12th July, 9 Charles (1633).

Whereas yt appeareth unto this Court by the affidavit of John Birche, gentleman, recorded in Court this xiith day of this instant Julie, that Sir Hugh Wrottesley, Knight, sonne and heire of Walter Wrottesley, Esquire, deceased, dyed the xxviiith day of May last past, and for that yt appears by a constat under Mr. Raymond's hande that xxiiijli for primer seisen, and xiiijli for the fine hath been paid unto the receipt of this Courte, and noe rates overdue as by the endorsement upon the Schedule of the said Liverie under Mr. Auditors hande more at large appeares. It is therefore ordered that the said Liverie of the said Hugh, and all charges, seizures, extents, scripts, attachments and process for wante thereof shall be discharged by decree of this Courte. And a decree to be drawne up accordingly.³

¹ Tettenhall Registers.

² Registers of Aston, near Birmingham, edited by Mr. William F. Carter.

³ Wrottesley Muniments. John Birch was the family lawyer.

The above sum of £38 represents the succession duty of the period, and it amounted to about a twentieth of the annual value of the property, a very small proportion, as compared with the sums levied at the present day under the exigencies of modern democratic finance.

Before dealing with Sir Walter's public career, I propose to describe his domestic troubles and difficulties, for they lasted without intermission during the whole of his life, and are best told as a continuous story. He had married his wife, Mary Grey, when only 19, against the consent of his father, and in spite of threats that he would be disinherited if he carried out his intention.¹ Walter had now to reap the consequences of his disobedience, for although his father had not carried out his intention of disinheriting him, he had left considerable legacies to all his other children, and these, owing to the loss of Mary's marriage portion, were necessarily charged upon the landed property.

Sir Hugh had left seven daughters, of these Penelope, Dorothy, and Susanna had been married in their father's lifetime. Elizabeth appears to have lived at Wrottesley with her brother's family after the death of her father, and took no part in the family squabbles; the others presented themselves in a body before their brother in the Midsummer of 1633, and formally demanded their legacies.

On the 5th of January 1633-4, his sister Howard writes to Sir Walter, "I doe heare that yoo doe take it ill that I shold say that I would have my money out of your hearts blood, which words I never spoke to my knowledge, but if I did it was in some passion when I was urged to it."

Sir Walter, in his answer to Howard, who in 1637 filed

¹ The young couple were nearly connected, for Ambrose Grey had married Margaret, the daughter of Richard Prince, and the son of the latter had married Mary, the sister of Sir Hugh Wrottesley, Mary Grey was therefore niece by marriage, and probably god-daughter of Mary Prince, *née* Wrottesley. On the 6th August 44 Elizabeth (1602), Sir Henry Graye, of Pergoe, co. Essex, had settled upon his son Ambrose Graye, on his marriage with Margaret Prynce, the daughter of Richard Prynce, Esquire, late of Shrewsbury, deceased, the manors of Enville, *alias* Enfield, Morffe, Trysell, Seisdon, Overton, Womburne, Whittington, and Amblecote, co. Stafford, the manor of Beckbury, co. Salop, and lands in Bobbington and Kinfar, co. Stafford, and in Roddington, co. Salop. The deed provided for a jointure for Margaret, and sums of £500 each for every daughter of the marriage not otherwise provided for, the said manors and lands to be held by Ambrose for his life, with remainder to the heirs male of the body of Ambrose, failing such, to the heirs male of the body of George Graye, brother of Ambrose, and failing such, to the right heirs of Sir Henry for ever. (Wrottesley Muni-ments.) The male issue of Ambrose Grey and of George Grey came to an end, and the manor of Enville and the other lands which had not been sold, came eventually to the right heirs of Sir Henry Grey, now represented by the Earl of Stamford. The Wrottesleys might therefore quarter the arms of the younger branch of this family, but they have never done so.

a bill in Chancery against him, says "she hath not any just cause as yet in such bitter, hot, and passionate manner to implead and question me"—that his father's intention was if his personalty were insufficient, his debts in the first place, and afterwards his legacies, should be paid out of the surplus of rents which remained after providing for the proper maintenance of the owner of the estate; and, moreover, that the whole rental only amounted to £700 a year. Sir Walter in addition denies that his father had any right to charge these legacies on the land at all.

The story of the sisters, as appears by the pleadings, was that Sir Hugh was greatly incensed against his son, and had threatened to cut off the entail and disinherit him, but that Walter deprecated his wrath on his knees, and had prevailed on his father to allow the estates to descend to him, upon his promising faithfully to pay his debts and legacies. Sir Walter states that he only promised to pay so far as the personalty would suffice, but he had offered to pay the legacies at the end of three years, and allow six per cent. interest in the meantime, if his sisters would release their claims. They refused to accept this offer, by the advice of Sir Richard Prince, their uncle-in-law.

Mary and Penelope married men beneath them in station, and unable to maintain them in any comfort. The first married John Lougher, a younger brother of a family residing at Perton, and she and her husband were often in great distress. Dorothy, who had married Henry Bressey, had received her sister Mary at Escot, near Meriden, in Warwickshire, shortly before her confinement, and applies to her brother to be repaid the cost of her hospitality. She writes that she would not have had to borrow money "if my brother Lougher had never come and layen upon us with his wife, his man, and horse," and adds of Lougher "he has no money to provide for his wife's necessities, and if he had he would spend it. He doth think to fetch gossips out of his country, which will be very chargeable." By "gossips" I conclude is meant godfathers and godmothers.

Sir Walter was evidently disinclined to pay Mary's legacy, unless the Loughers would settle an annuity of £40 on his sister and her issue. The legacy was never paid during Lougher's lifetime, and was the occasion of much litigation for many years.

On the death of Lougher, Mary married, as Sir Walter states, "contrary to his mind and many advertisements to the contrary, Williams, a man of small or noe means at all; therefore he saw no reason to pay him the four hundred pounds, unless he should be careful and respective (*sic*) to his sister." On this ensued another suit, which lasted for the

remainder of Sir Walter's lifetime, and was not finally settled until 1663, four years after his death, when the Williams' received £280 from the second Baronet in discharge of all claims. This Williams is described as "the chaplain of Lord Ward, and having formerly preached at Dudley in the cavaleering times, when Colonel Leveson kept garrison for the King there." He married Mary in 1645.

Respecting Penelope, Lougher writes to his wife, the 11th of May 1639, "Your sister Pen lyes very ill, and all for the unkindness of her brother, and have done ever sithins Christmas, and noe hope of recovery." She died soon after, but other letters and documents furnish no ground for this charge against Sir Walter. She was at times reduced to great distress, until her brother finally paid her legacy of £250 on the 2nd May 1638; but it is probable from evidence that he allowed her eight per cent. for the money till paid. Penelope appears to have married before the 27th October 1631, a person of the name of Collett. She had two children by him—Thomas, who was bound apprentice to William Hey, a clothier of Bradford in Yorkshire, in August 1637; and a daughter Margaret. Collett was dead before January 1634, and Penelope married again. Her second husband was one Mill or Miles, who, she afterwards found out, had another wife living. She took legal proceedings against Miles, and states that she "had hired my Lord's chief poursuivant, but thought Miles was gone beyond sea, for there was a scitation hung on Dr. Chamberlayne's doore, by the same gentlewoman that lays claim to him; and I am assured by the best counsell I can learne from the civilians, that if the contract be proved lawfull, he will fall to her share." She first occurs as Penelope Mill in 1636.¹

She appears to have gone on spending money on this business until her death in 1639. Her children added much to her troubles. Thomas left his master. In letters to Sir Walter he is called "a troublesome boy, likely to put his uncle to more charge than his body is worth"; and Birch, the family lawyer, writes, "Your sister, Mistress Pen's sonne have beene placed in several places. I know not what should be done with him. Mistress Lougher put him into clothes, and procured severall places, but none will fit him. She will dispose of him any way you like; if you think fit, she will put him to a captayne or seemann."

Of Margaret, the daughter of Penelope, the first notice is found in a letter, dated 1st June 1637, showing that Sir Walter was exceeding wrath with a carrier for bringing

¹ Wroottesley Muniments and Correspondence.

her from London, asking him whether he had heard that she came from an infected place. Penelope had been so ill-advised as to send her daughter uninvited to Wrottesley by the common carrier, and Walter probably invented the idea of an infected house as an excuse not to take her in. Richard Hanson, a tenant of Sir Walter's, gave her house-room for three weeks, and was afterwards paid by him at the rate of 2s. 6d. a week for her board. Merry, the carrier, was paid in 1638, 5s. for bringing her down, and 13s. for taking her back again on the 15th July 1637. Her mother writes to Sir Walter, "I understand you are much discontented with me about my daughter's comynge downe into the country. I am heartily sorry to heare of it, that she should be soe wretched and vile to displease you and to disgrace me in comynge soe basely into the country." She adds she "is disgraced by a graceless baggage, and hopes she will be sent up in the same manner as she came downe." The last notice of the poor girl is in a letter dated 1639, which states that she was then in Virginia.

Sir Walter had other troubles, arising from trespasses in pursuit of game. In October 1635, a suit in the Star Chamber was instituted by him, for the purpose of punishing some neighbours who had broken the head of John Frauster, his gamekeeper. In June 1638, Sir Walter writes to Birch, then residing at Cannock, that he had lost a hind stolen out of his park, "upon receipte of which discourtesy, I could doe noe lesse then take course for the finding of those which were delinquent therein," and then he informs Birch that he is going to proceed against the offenders in the Star Chamber. Though much distressed for money, he tells his lawyer not to hesitate to spend money, and writes, "I value not the expense in soe just a cause," but within a month of that time, he wrote to Thomas, another lawyer, a letter in which he professes his total want of money, and his inability to repay the Bressey's what they had spent for his unfortunate sister Mary, whose husband he also accused of being implicated in the abduction of the hind.

From these and other causes, Sir Walter was compelled to sell considerable property, including Priestfields, near Wolverhampton, afterwards the site of valuable coal mines, and other lands for which he received £3,248. He also sold the manor of Butterson, in the north of the county, for £3,130. The other lands sold were situated in Lichfield, Bilston, Wolverhampton, Pendeford, Bushbury, Tettenhall, Codsall, Droitwich, Coven, and elsewhere. In a paper in his own handwriting, Walter makes his own and his father's

debts together to amount to £8,400, and his sales to £7,642. These were large sums in the seventeenth century, but it is probable that the debt of £8,400 included the purchase money of the manors of Trysull, Womborne, Orton, and Seisdon, which had been acquired by his father on very advantageous terms from the creditors and mortgagees of Ambrose Grey, of Enville, the father of Walter's wife.

I now come to the public career of Sir Walter.

In 1634, as one of the Deputy Lieutenants of the County, he made a return of the "trayned horse for the County." This has been printed from a MS. at Wrotesley, in vol. xv of the Staffordshire Collections. The muster consisted of sixty-nine Cuirassiers and thirty-one Light Horse, and as it was based on the assessment of the land, it gives us the names of all the landed gentry of the county.

In 1639 he was appointed by the Earl Marshal to terminate a quarrel between Henry Grey, of Enville, and Nicholas Moseley, which had been carried by Henry Grey into "the Court of Honor the Earl Marshall's Court sitting in the Painted Chamber beneath the Palace of Westminster."

Henry Grey's complaint was that Nicholas Moseley had given him the lie at least twenty times, had called him a base, scurvey [. . .], and boasted that he durst not fight, and challenged him to fight if he durst.

The Court of Honor issued a decree, dated 9th July 1639, authorizing Walter Wrotesley to end the controversy, he being chosen with the assent of both parties. Walter awarded that Nicholas Moseley should pay the complainant's just expenses incurred in prosecuting the suit in the Court of Honor, and make an apology to Henry Grey in the presence of four gentlemen of quality.

At this date the Marshal's Court took cognizance of abusive language for which a culprit could not be punished in the regular Courts, and like the Star Chamber it filled up a gap in the ordinary judicature of the country. Unlike the latter Court, however, it was never formally abolished, but it fell gradually into desuetude. Blackstone speaking of it in his Commentaries, published in 1764, says, "As it cannot imprison, and as by the resolutions of the Superior Courts it is now confined to so narrow and restricted a jurisdiction it has fallen into contempt and disuse."¹

By warrant, dated 28th April 1640, Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, who had succeeded the Earl of Monmouth as Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, appoints:—

"My right well beloved and trustie friend and kinsman² Walter Wriottsley of Wriottsley in the County of Stafford, Esquire, my

¹ "The Earl Marshal's Court," by George Grazebrook, F.S.A., privately printed, 1895.

² Essex always speaks of Walter Wrotesley as his kinsman, but the blood

deputy in the office of Lieutenant in the County of Stafford during his absence in attendance upon his Majesty in his high Court of Parliament at Westminster, to joyne with the other deputies in the execution of the said office of Lieutenantcy, and also solely by himself, if cause require it, to do and perform all other things requisite for His Majesty's service, and for my said Deputy Walter Wriottsley his better performance thereof I have delivered him a true copie of His Majesty's said Letters Patent to me therein made." This warrant is signed "Ro. Essex."

In the same year, in conjunction with Sir Hervey Bagot and Thomas Crompton, two other Deputy Lieutenants, he made the muster for the Scotch war, which is printed in vol. xv of the Staffordshire Collections. The men mustered on this occasion were the trained bands who had been previously employed in 1639, and an additional body of 300 men who were impressed for the occasion; the service was very unpopular, and in some counties the men mutinied and murdered their officers. The insubordination did not reach this pitch in Staffordshire, but riots and disorders occurred in many parts of the country during the march of the men to the rendezvous. Amongst the State Papers there is a letter to the Lords of the Council, signed by Sir Hervey Bagot, Walter Wrottesley, and Thomas Crompton, dated from Uttoxeter, 15th July 1640, giving an account of the riots at that place between the 1st and the 3rd July of this year. The Deputy Lieutenants write:—

"That receiving notice of the riot from one of the Constables whilst we were at supper between 8 and 9 of the clock at

relationships of this era are often no nearer than those of Baillie Jarvie and Rob Roy, when the former claimed the famous freebooter, as his "near kinsman, four times removed." It will be seen by the pedigree below that Essex was second cousin once removed of Walter, but by the half blood only.

Mary, d. of Thom. Grey, Marquis of Dorset, 1st wife.	Walter Devereux, Lord Ferrers of Chartley, 1st Viscount Hereford, ob. 1558.	Margaret, d. of Robert Garbish, of Kenton, co. Suffolk, 2nd wife.
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Sir Robert Devereux, ob. v.p. 1547.

Sir Edward Devereux, Bart., of Castle Bromwich, ob. 1622.

Catharine, d. of Edward Arden, of Park Hall, co. Warwick.

Walter Devereux, created Earl of Essex, ob. 1576.

Sir Walter Devereux, Bart., succeeded as Viscount Devereux 1646, ob. 1659.

Margaret, d. of Sir Hugh Wrottesley, ob. 1633.

Robert, Earl of Essex, the favourite of Queen Elizabeth, beheaded 1601.

Sir Walter Wrottesley, Bart.

Robert, Earl of Essex, the Parliamentary General, ob. s.p. 1646.

night, we gave order to the Constable speedily to raise what forces he could in the Towne, and to bringe them downe to the Inne where we lodged which the Constable did performe, as we conceive, very honestly, and when we had gotten to the number of 40 or 50 townsmen well armed with Halberds and other weapons, we did rise from supper and with that number and our owne servants we made after them, and were soe neere them at the first settinge forth, as that we were within hearing of them, but being on foot, and not soe well able to travell as those miscreants who made haste to do mischeife, before we could approach to the said place where they beganne their worke the said unruly multitude had pulled down about some tenne roodes of Rayles and had made two fiers thereof. When we came neere unto them we made a stand and caused proclamation to be made accordinge to the Statute in that case provided.

This beinge done we came close up to them, and by all faire perswasions sought to pacify them, letting them know the danger they were in if they should now persist and continew in this riotous and unlawful course. They gave little care to our perswasions, and then we fell to action, and conceiving ourselves able to deale with the number as then assembled, we in our owne persons with the helpe of some High Constables and our owne servants laid houlde of the ryotors and delivered them upp into the hands of the said Townsmen whoe stood by us armed with weapons charginge them to hould the said Riotors fast, but more souldiers comyng in they were rescued and taken from them, whereby we were disinabled to record the said Ryott or to inflict condigne ponishment on the said Riotors beinge menne unknowne to us," etc., etc.

The riots continued all the following day, the soldiers being masters of the town, and the High Constable of the Hundred reporting that he "could not stay their hands without effusion of much blood." The report then goes on to state that:—

"On the 3rd July finding them to grow insolent and fearing some greater mysheife likely to ensue, if they were not mastered, we caused several High Constables to raise strength out of the townes 4 or 5 miles of Uttoxitor and to bring them armed, and sent for the assistance of some of the neighbouring Justices soe that night we ourselves and the said Justices howsed the said souldiers and sett strong gardes in severall places of the towne whome we comaunded to watch all that night, by which meanes we kept them in reasonable good order untill such time as they were delivered over to the officers authorised by the Lord Generall of his Majestys Army to receave them," etc.

On the 28th July an urgent message from Humphrey Wyrley to Walter Wrottesley states that the same soldiers had broken out again into a riot at Mr. Lane's at Bentley, and asks him to meet him without delay at Walsall, for

"you and myself are the two next Justices dwelling to the place where the riots are committed," etc.

The sequel was on a par with the above proceedings; when the train bands and the impressed men came into the presence of the enemy on the Tyne, they all turned their backs and ran away without stopping till they reached Newcastle.

The Long Parliament met in the following year. The private letters at Wrottesley shewed clearly that Walter Wrottesley's sympathies at this time were all in favour of the Parliament, and this in fact, owing to the mismanagement of the King's affairs, was the general bent of men's minds. On the 9th February 1641, Thomas Pudsey, one of his neighbours, writes to him from Essex House, London¹:—

"Strafford's tryal will be to-morrow senet. It is thought he will not come off well, for the axe or the rope may sarve his turne. The Bishop of Oxford is dead, and our Bishop is not well, and I think all have quesie stomachs, for they stand upon their good behaviour; in the house some are for Bishops and some for none, and if there be any, they are to be alowed a partickelar stipand so that their pride will be abated."

The correspondence formerly at Wrottesley tends to confirm the opinion of Lord Clarendon, that the opposition to the King's measures proceeded more from dislike to the Bishops and their pretentions, than from any ill will to the monarchy. Laud and the Bishops had, however, persuaded the King that the outcry against them was only a pretence, and that the agitation was really aimed at the monarchy, and Charles therefore made the cause of the Bishops' his own, and lost both his crown and his head. Another letter from Pudsey of later date, states that the writer had been into the City to see the axe sharpened which was to be used at the execution of Lord Strafford. This appears to have been made a public spectacle, and will give an idea of the brutality and violence of the political feeling of the day.

All this time, notwithstanding his pecuniary embarrassments and the public troubles, Walter Wrottesley was in treaty for the purchase of a Baronetcy. The King's need for money was great, and the following letter shows the method by which these dignities were acquired at this date. On the 6th March 1641, Sir John Skeffington writes to him, asking for two large trees, and offers a Baronetcy, the King having given him a warrant, "with liberty to nominate a gentleman whom he and I think fit," and he gives him the first offer for £300.

¹ The house of the Earl of Essex. Pudsey was in the service of the Earl.

On the 10th of the same month, Thomas Pudsey advises Walter Wrottesley not to think of the Baronetcy. "It is thought those which have been made shall be called in question, and nothing shall be done but by Parliament."

In a later letter the Baronetcy was declined "as the times are dangerous."

At the first meeting of the Long Parliament, an order had been issued to seize the arms of the Roman Catholic Recusants, and this order involved Walter Wrottesley in a quarrel with his neighbour Thomas Leveson, of Wolverhampton, who was a Roman Catholic, and subsequently famous as the Governor of Dudley Castle for the King during the Civil War.

On the 20th April 1642 Walter writes to Sir Sampson Evers, enclosing particulars of the conduct of Mr. Thomas Leveson, and stating:—

"That on the 9th April last Mr. Thomas Leveson had sent to John Tanner, an armourer, in Wolverhampton, to demand his horseman's arms, who gave his messenger answer, that he was not to deliver them without command from the Deputy-Lieutenants. Mr. Leveson then came himself to the said John Tanner's shop and spoke these words, 'Sirrah, why did you not send me my arms?' John Tanner submissively replied, with his hat in his hand, that he was not to deliver them without orders from the Deputy-Lieutenants and therefore wished him not to take it ill. Whereupon Mr. Leveson asked who were the Deputy-Lieutenants, to which John Tanner told him Mr. Crompton and Mr. Wrottesley and others. Thereupon Mr. Leveson, in a violent passion, said that Mr. Wrottesley was a fool and a knave and he (meaning John Tanner) was a stinking rogue, and with these words, with a cane which he had in his hand, stroke him two or three blows, one whereof hit him on the head, and made a great knob in the skin thereof."¹

Walter Wrottesley also wrote an account of this affair to Essex, in which he states:—

"That he and Mr. Crompton had given instructions to Tanner not to restore the arms to Mr. Leveson, as he was an active and dangerous recusant, and that the latter had told Tanner that Mr. Wrottesley was a fool and a knave, and with his cane did beat Tanner in his own house, which is much taken notice of in the county, and that he (the writer) was deeply wounded in his reputation by the matter."

And he added that "Leveson is going to France to breed up his son in Popery," and suggests that a writ of "*ne exeat regno*" should be issued against him. There had been previous bickerings between Walter and Leveson,

¹ Welbeck MSS., printed by the Historical Commission, and Commons Journals, ii, 554.

the latter having distrained upon the Wrottesley Constable for not attending his Court Leets in 1640. Walter took the part of his Constable, declaring that he owed no service to Leveson's Courts, and this turned out to be the case.

Parliament now was master of the situation, owing to the King's weakness in parting with the power of dissolution. They took possession of the Fleet, and on the 15th April passed an ordinance that the King's Commissions of Lieutenancy were illegal and void. Essex was re-appointed Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire by the Parliament, and on the 29th of June he appointed Walter Wrottesley his Vice-Lieutenant for the County. The preamble of the warrant issued for this purpose ran as follows:—

"Whereas the Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled have for the safety of his Majesty's person, the Parliament and Kingdom in this tyme of imminent danger, by an ordinance of the said Lords and Commons ordeyned me Robert Earl of Essex to be Lieutenant of the County of Stafford," etc.¹

It would appear by this Commission that Essex calculated on the support of Walter, but in this he reckoned without his host. The violent proceedings of the Parliament had caused a re-action in the King's favour; Falkland and Hyde and all the moderate members of the Parliament withdrew and repaired to the King. Walter Wrottesley appears to have belonged to this party and was appointed one of the Commissioners of Array by the King. On the 26th of July Essex writes to warn him against having anything to do with the Array, as it was illegal.²

On the 9th of August the Parliament voted the King's Commissioners of Array to be traitors. On the 22nd of the same month the King set up his standard at Nottingham

¹ Original Commission formerly at Wrottesley. It was signed "Essex."

² Wrottesley Muniments. According to Clarendon, Parliament had obtained an opinion from Selden that the King's Commissions of Array were invalid. If Selden really gave this opinion without any qualification, it only shows how political prejudices tend to distort the judgment, for as an historian and archæologist, he must have known that the English sovereigns had issued these Commissions from time immemorial. It is possible, however, that in some of the Tudor Commissions there had been a departure from the original form of words. Thus in the original Commissions the words, "for the defense of the Kingdom" or to accompany the King, "*ad profiscendum cum nobis*" always occur. If Selden argued that Commissions of Array could be issued only for defence of the kingdom against external enemies, the answer would be that they had been issued both by Henry VI and Edward IV during the Civil Wars of Lancaster and York. It may be said, however, that in all these cases the writs were for the protection of the King's person, but even admitting this to be true, in the case of the writs of Charles I this technical objection would not apply, for the King took the field in person.

and invited his subjects to supply him with money, horses and arms, for which he pledged the woods and forests and royal demesnes for their repayment. It was at this date that Walter Wrottesley purchased his Baronetcy; he must have foreseen that he would have to advance money for the King, and probably considered that he had better get something for it in return.

The Letters Patent conferring the Baronetcy upon him are dated from Nottingham 30th August 1642. After a preamble describing the institution of the Dignity by his father, James I, the Letters state that:—¹

“we of our special grace, etc., have raised, preferred and created our beloved Walter Wrottesley the elder, of Wrottesley in the County of Stafford Esquire, a man approved in family, property, wealth and probity of manners, who with a generous and liberal mind gave and afforded to us sufficient ample aid and help for maintaining and supplying thirty men of our infantry in our said Kingdom of Ireland for three whole years for the defence of our said Kingdom and chiefly for the security of the plantation of our said Province of Ulster to and unto the dignity, estate and degree of a Baronett to hold to him and the heirs male of his body, etc. (*Here follows the precedency of a Baronet, viz., next immediately after the younger sons of Viscounts and Barons, the precedency of his wife and the precedency of his sons and daughters*).

We also grant that the said Walter Wrottesley may be named, called, pleaded and impleaded by the name of Walter Wrottesley, Bart., and that the style and additions of Bart. may be appended to the end of the name of the said Walter Wrottesley and his heirs male in all Letters Patent, etc., and in all other writings as the true legitimate and necessary addition of the dignity, also that to the name of the said Walter Wrottesley and his heirs male, in English and in all English writings, this addition may be prefixed, viz., “Sir,” and in like manner that the wives of the said Walter Wrottesley and of his heirs male may have, use and enjoy this appellation, viz., Lady, Madame or Dame according to the custom of speaking, and moreover that the said Walter Wrottesley and his heirs male and their descendants may bear in a canton in their coat of arms, or on an escutcheon the arms of Ulster, viz., a hand gules or a bloody hand in a field argent, and that the said Walter Wrottesley and his heirs male may have a place in our armies in the ranks near to the royal standard in defence of the same, which is a mean place between a Baron and a Knight.

¹ The original Letters Patent were in Latin. I made a translation of them in 1862, as it was doubtful whether the Letters Patent issued by Charles after his departure from London had ever been enrolled, but on enquiry at the Record Office, I find that the Grants of Baronetcies were enrolled at the Restoration. A list of them will be found in the 48th Report of the Deputy Record Keeper.

We will moreover and grant that the said Walter Wrotesley shall be created a Knight immediately after the making of these presents, and that we our heirs and successors in like manner will knight the first born son or heir male apparent of the body of the said Walter Wrotesley and of the body of the heir male of the said Walter Wrotesley begotten, on their attaining the age of twenty-one in the lifetime of their father or grandfather, on notice thereof being given to our Chamberlain or Vice-Chamberlain of our Household (*hospitii nostri*) or in their absence to any other officer or minister of us our heirs, etc., in attendance on our person.¹ (*Here follows the precedency of Baronets amongst themselves, to be settled according to date of their Patents, and afterwards a proviso that no dignity shall be created hereafter under the dignity of a Baron of Parliament which shall be superior or equal to the dignity of a Baronet.*)

Teste me ipso apud Nottingham, 30 August, anno regni nostri decimo octavo.

It is doubtful whether Walter ever acted as a Commissioner of Array for the King, for it was not brought up against him at the date of the sequestration of his estates, but when an information was laid against Mark Antony Galliardello, a former clerk and factotum of Walter Wrotesley, the informer stated the said Mark, who was late clerk to Sir Walter Wrotesley, had frequently exercised his skill in the King's cause, and had published a Commission at Womborne, to the effect, that the said Sir Walter was empowered by the King to nominate officers and to raise men, money and arms in the Seisdon Hundred and to exercise them for the King, and that Sir Walter had nominated Henry Gray, Esq., for that purpose.²

The King left Nottingham in September and marched at the head of an army to Shrewsbury. At Nottingham he could muster no more than 6,000 men, but so many joined

¹ The object of this clause was to save the Fine on not taking the degree of Knighthood, when summoned, see p. 297. For a single payment or a lump sum the Baronets compounded for all future Fines on this account.

² Proceeding of Committee for the Advance of Money, vol. A, p. 40. Mark Antonio Cesar Galliardello was the grandson of an Italian musician in the service of Queen Elizabeth. According to Mr. Sydney Grazebrook, he was Town Clerk of Walsall, but he was certainly in the service of Sir Walter Wrotesley for the greater part of his life, for all the public documents, such as the muster of 1640, and many of the copies of private deeds, abstracts of title, etc., formerly at Wrotesley of this period, were in his handwriting. At the date of Dugdale's Visitation of Staffordshire in 1663, he had the address to persuade that great Herald and Antiquary to include his pedigree in it, and to allow him a coat of arms which he stated had been put up in memory of his grandfather in the church of the Minories without Aldgate. This pedigree will be found in vol. v of the Staffordshire Collections, p. 143, with notes by Mr. Sydney Grazebrook, giving an account of the Galliardello family.

him from the Midland Counties that before he had been long at Shrewsbury his army amounted to close upon 20,000 men. Sir Walter met him at Uttoxeter on the 15th September,¹ and appears to have accompanied him to Shrewsbury, for he was knighted by the King at the latter town on the 22nd September.² At this crisis in the King's fortunes he was doubtless very graciously received; his sympathies were certainly very strongly enlisted on the side of the King, for very shortly afterwards, viz., on the 5th of January 1643, he sent the greater part of his plate to Shrewsbury to be melted down and coined for the King's use.³ At the same time he armed his servants and tenants' sons to form a garrison for his house. The composition papers describe the house as strong and moated, and that he had taken into it several of his tenants' sons and neighbours; as he expressed it, "he stood upon his guard, there was so much plundering, but would never make it a garrison for the King, although often solicited."

Notwithstanding his asseverations to the contrary, which were made to save his estates, his house appears to have been considered a Royalist post, for Sir Louis Kirke wrote from Bridgenorth to Prince Rupert on the 9th April 1644, asking "for Sir Walter Wrottesley's convoy for some plate laid up in this garrison, with which I intend to pay a Privy Seal for £50 sent from Oxford."⁴ The meaning of this, is, that the King had sent a writ, under his Privy Seal, to Sir Louis, for the payment of £50 for his troops, and Sir Louis had not money to meet it except by the sale of plate in his possession, and he required an escort from Wrottesley to convey the plate to some place not specified (probably Shrewsbury), where it could be melted and sold.

The only other evidence I have been able to collect respecting the attitude of Sir Walter at this period is contained in a statement of Colonel Purefoy respecting the conduct of the Earl of Denbigh during the Civil War. This was made to the Council or Committee of Parliament which was sitting in London in 1649. He stated that when the Earl came down and was staying at Wellingborough, in Shropshire, Sir Edward Littleton went into Staffordshire, and there declared he had come to raise forces for the Earl, and that Sir Walter Wriothsley (*sic*), himself and Mr. Skrimshaw would join in that service. Mr. Swinfen

¹ Wrottesley Muniments.

² Book of Knights, by Mr. Walter C. Metcalfe.

³ Wrottesley Muniments. He sent altogether 622 oz. of silver, which was valued at £249 4s. 11d.

⁴ "Memoirs of Prince Rupert," by Elliott Warburton, vol. i, p. 520.

and others of the Committee (for the Parliament) having notice that Sir Edward Littleton had made his peace with the King, and that these gentlemen intended to settle that county for the King, gave intelligence to the Committee for Safety, and Sir Edward finding his design was known, fled to Oxford. The Earl of Denbigh, hearing thereof, feared he might be suspected, and got him (*i.e.*, Colonel Purefoy) to go down and raise forces for the Parliament. Colonel Purefoy added "that the most charitable construction to put upon the Earl's proceedings, would be that he had attempted with Sir Edward Littleton, Sir Walter Wriothesley and others to form a third party in the County."¹

The three Staffordshire men named in the above statement were, apparently, the King's Commissioners of Array, and it refers, probably, to the end of 1642 or the early part of 1643. The King reached Oxford with his army on the 29th of November 1642.

Anyone reading the printed histories of the next three or four years, which recount nothing but a succession of battles and skirmishes, will be left under the impression that everybody was fighting either for or against the King, but if he carries his investigations further and examines the memoirs and private letters of the period, he will find a very different state of things. The great bulk of the people took no part whatever in the struggle, and the actual fighting was confined for the most part to the professional soldiers and the fanatics on either side, who were the Roman Catholic gentry and the Calvinistic party. The large landed proprietors were principally intent upon saving their estates, and maintained for the most part a neutral attitude. In some counties the principal landowners met together and agreed to oppose the entry of any armed force without the joint consent of the King and Parliament. These associations, however, were of very short duration, for Parliament denounced them as derogatory to their authority and absolved their partisans from their engagements,² nor was it possible to prevent the more active and violent men of each faction from levying forced contributions from the lands of their adversaries. The attempt therefore to form a neutral party in the county, which would have the power of preserving the peace and of coercing the violent partisans of each side, proved a failure, but it will be observed on examining the Proceedings for Compounding that there were not many instances in Staffordshire of the Protestant landowners having taken up arms for the Royal

¹ State Papers (Domestic Series) A.D. 1649, Letters, Nos. 103 and 104.

² Lingard, quoting the Commons Journals.

cause.¹ The Roman Catholics all fought for the King, but in their case it may be said that they were fighting in self-defence, for not only their interests, but even their very safety, depended on the success of the King's arms.

The feeling, in fact, of the landed gentry may be best expressed in the language of Mercutio, "A plague o' both the houses." Many believed the war to be undertaken for the sake of Episcopacy, an institution for which few men would care to hazard their lives and properties. Even Sir Edmund Verney, the King's standard bearer, told Clarendon that "he only followed the King because honour obliged him, that the object of the war was against his conscience, for he had no reverence for the Bishops, whose quarrel it was."² In the same tone Lord Spencer writes to his wife from the King's quarters, "If there could be an expedient found to salve the punctilio of honour, I would not continue here an hour."³ Again, most people must have read the story of the King's pathetic speech and his allusion to happier days, when passing with his army through Warwickshire, he suddenly encountered the squire of Shuckburgh at the head of his pack of hounds.⁴ Bearing all these facts in mind, the reader will be better able to appreciate the position taken up by the landed proprietors during the war. Their attitude towards the King may be best expressed in the language of diplomacy, as one of "benevolent neutrality," and this was perfectly well understood by the opposite party. After the success of Parliament, the ordinances for the sequestration of the estates of the Loyalists swept into the net every man of property who could not shew that he had been actively engaged on the side of the Parliament.

In the spring of 1644, however, Sir Walter appears to have had some intention of taking the field, for the following armorers account was formerly at Wrottesley:—

31 March 1644. Received by me Peter Johnson, Armorer, of Sir Walter Wrottesley, Knight and Baronet, the sum of £5 5s. 0d., viz., for one cap 10s., for a head piece 15s., for back and breast plates £3 10s. 0d., and for altering and coloring and loyning (lining) the old arms, 10s.

¹ The sons of the Protestant landed proprietors in many cases were serving for the King whilst their fathers remained neutral, the most conspicuous instances being those of Colonel Bagot, Colonel Lane, and Lord Ward.

² Clarendon's History. Sir Edmund was a member of the King's Household at the outbreak of the war. After his death at Edgehill, Ralph Verney, his son, lived in retirement at Claydon, and took no part whatever in the war. (Verney Papers).

³ Lingard's History, quoting the Sydney Papers.

⁴ Dugdale's Warwickshire, and Evelyn Shirley's "Noble and Gentle Men of England."

On the 22nd May of this year Colonel Frazer, who was in command of Lord Denbigh's Regiment of Horse, reports from Penkridge that he had taken Lady Wrottesley prisoner. The cause of this arrest does not transpire, but as Lord Denbigh was in the service of the Parliament, it must have been considered that she had come from the quarters of the enemy.¹

In 1645, after the battle of Naseby, the cause of the King was hopeless, and Sir Walter handed over the custody of Wrottesley to the Parliamentarians. His object, no doubt, in taking this step, was to save his estate from sequestration, but in this he failed, and his old enemy Colonel Leveson, who commanded for the King at Dudley Castle, on hearing of it, sent a detachment of his garrison, which burnt all the stables, barns, and granaries which were outside the defences of the house.² The fact that he had been left undisturbed up to this date by Leveson and the other Royalist garrisons which surrounded him, is strong evidence that he was looked upon as a Royalist.³

A letter in the Welbeck MSS. from Colonel Leigh to Lenthall the Speaker, dated 10th November 1645, mentions a garrison at Wrottesley House "which we have lately erected," and describes a skirmish near Bridgenorth, in which two troops under Captain Stones and Captain Blackburne from Wrottesley had defeated a body of Royalist troops under Sir Thomas Aston, and taken the latter prisoner.⁴

Walter Wrottesley's estates were now sequestered, and the rents assigned to the Parliamentary Committee at Stafford for the payment of their troops. In the latter part of this year, the Committee write to Walter that for neglect of payment, they had fetched two persons named (two of his tenants) into Stafford and detained them for £41 19s. 9d. of arrears, and asking him to pay that sum for the enlargement of his tenants.

Walter, however, had gone to London, and had petitioned to compound for his estates.

¹ Denbigh Papers, Historical MSS. Commission. It is clear she had no pass from the Parliamentarians, or she would not have been detained.

² See Galliardello's affidavit at p. 325.

³ In an affidavit made in favour of Sir Walter Wrottesley by Thomas Southall, minister of Shorne, near Gravesend, at the time when the former compounded for his estates, Southall stated that the Royalists had garrisons at Chillington, Brewood Church, Lapley Hall, Lichfield, Rushall Hall, at Wolverhampton, sometimes at the Church and Crosse, and sometimes at Leveson's Hall, Dudley Castle, Patesley (Patshull) Hall, Linsill (?) Manor and Tong Castle.

⁴ Welbeck MSS., vol. i, p. 306; Historical MSS. Commission. Sir Arthur Aston was killed in this skirmish.

His petition was dated 28th November 1645, and was as follows:—

To the Hon^{ble} the Committee for compositions of delinquents estates sitting at Goldsmith's Hall.

The humble petition of Sir Walter Wrottesley sheweth.

That the petitioner's estate lying under the power of the enemy yett he freely tendred his house, being of a considerable strength to the Committee of Stafford to be garrisoned for the service of the State,¹ which they accepted of, and promysed to secure your petitioner's goods for his use.

That the petitioner hath disbursed for the Parliament service above £800,² all which the enemy taking notice of hath taken away the petitioner's cattle and burned all his stables, barnes, granaries and corne to the value of £2,000.

That the said Committee of Stafford, conceiving the petitioner to bee within the letter of the Ordinaunce for delinquency, which he could nott avoide seeing that his estate of land is under the power of the enemy, and his house is since garrisoned for the State, soe that hee makes noe benefitt thereby, nor hath hee any livelyhoode to menteyne himselfe and his Lady and eight small children. Nevertheless the petitioner humbly desires to submitt to the mercy of the Parliament, and prayes a favorable composition, and that in the mean time this Honorable Committee will be pleased to write their letters to the said Committee of Stafford to certifie the value of his estate of which he hath annexed a schedule as perfect as hee is able for the present. And hee etc.,

Signed,

Wal. Wrottesley.

Endorsed "Received 16 Dec. 1645."

The schedule of his estate which accompanies the petition gives a total income of £703, and this is probably a correct estimate, for the penalties for concealment were very heavy.³

Attached to his petition are certificates in his favour from Colonel Graves, a Parliamentary officer, and Mr. Thomas Southall, a minister of religion, and two affidavits

¹ Sir Walter, however, does not mention that this took place after the battle of Naseby, when the royal cause was considered hopeless by everybody.

² He includes in this the forced contributions levied upon him, which everybody had to undergo.

³ The composition for concealed lands or rents was doubled, and all personal property concealed was forfeited entirely. Informers of concealed property (of which there were several in every county) received one-fifth of all properties discovered by them. In order to represent the value of property of this date in terms of the present day, it is calculated that it should be multiplied by 4½. Sir Walter's income would be therefore represented by £3,163 10s. at the present time.

from his agent Galliardello. These affidavits were as follows :—

Marke Anthony Galliardello of Codsall in the county of Stafford gent. maketh oath; That Sir Walter Wrottesley did voluntarily advance for the service of the State upon the propositions of both houses of Parliamt as is hereafter mencioned, and delivered to severall of the Committee of Stafford, and other theire Capteynes and officers, viz^t—In sommer 1643, Foureteene horses at Threescore and six poundes, Twenty six beastes; at Threescore and Five poundes, Forty and Five sheepe at Thirteene poundes, and the Lay money of the parke at Fifteene poundes, for supply of the Garrison of Chillington; all w^{ch} horses and Cattle were soe valued by Sr Walter Wrottesleyes servants at the tyme of the delivery of them: And at that tyme to Colonell Leighe one of the said Comittee and now a member of the hono^{ble} house of Commons, thirty poundes; And about the Moneth of June, 1644, to the Earle of Denbigh one hundred poundes; And about the Monethes of January and March, 1644, to Capteyne Stone, another of the Committee afforesaid, and now Governo^r of Stafford, Foure score poundes; and at that tyme to the said Gouverno^r Five horses valued at Twenty poundes. And hee did likewise voluntarily offer and deliver up his house, to bee made a Garrison, and meyntheyned at his owne Costes and Charges one troope of Dragoones under Generall Poyntz three weekes, and a troope of horse and a Company of foote belonging to the Comittee of Stafford two weekes, for the service of the State, they haveing noe provicion therein; to the value of one hundred and Fifty poundes; all w^{ch} ariseth to the somme of Five hundred Thirty and nine poundes; and all paid, delivered, and done freely wth his Consent; and the somme imposed upon the said Sir Walter upon the propositions, by the Comittee of Stafford, who well knew his estate, as this deponent conceveth, was Foure hundred poundes. Moreover about Michaelmas last, 1645, Generall Poyntz upon his March to Chester after the King's forces had of Sir Walter Wrottesley in money, Two hundred poundes, and seauen horses valued at one hundred poundes; The totall of all w^{ch} fore-mencioned somes amountes to the some of Eight hundred Thirty and nine poundes, besides the paymt of the Contribucion to the said Garrison of Stafford.

Mark Anthony Galliardello,

Ju^r. 26 die Januarii 1645.

[Indorsed]; "Sr Walter Wrottesley N^o 112. Febr. 1645, of Wrottesley Stafford. Int."

"Report past 28^o Maii, 1646. Fyne 1332^l 10^s & to settle 15^l per annum for ever."¹

¹ State Papers, Domestic, Interregnum, Committee for Compounding, G 176, fol. 199.

Mark Anthony Galliardello, of Codsall, in the County of Stafford, gent. Maketh Oath; that Sir Walter Wrottesley being Justice of the Peace and Quorum, and Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Stafford, in affection to Religion, prosecuted an Indictem^t against Colonell Leveson now governo^r of Dudley Castle (and in Armes against the Parliam^t) for being a Recusant: and in obedience to the ordinaunces and Comaundes of the Parliam^t hee searched the said Leveson's house for armes. For w^{ch} and other his apparant expressions for the State, the Enemy have endeavoured to have his house to bee made a Garrison, which hee wth much difficulty and Charge for a long tyme did keepe against them. And by his direccions his Lady and likewise this Deponent often went and solicited the Committee at Stafford to take care for the garrisoning of it for the State or to sleight it, for that hee could not be able of himselfe to meyneteyne it against the Enemy, and for that hee lived invironed wth the Enemys's garrisons hee feared hee should bee compelled (unlesse the Parliam^t assisted him) to act something against the State. That his said house is now and a long while hath bine garrisoned for the State, and hee did meyneteyne: First a troope of Dragoones, and after a troope of horse, and a Company of Foote five weekes (which was untill his barnes, Corne, and all was burned) at his owne Costs and Charges: All which particulars the Enemy takeing notice of, have manifested there malice towards him as followeth, to witt; The Lord Capell upon his March to Wolverhampton, by Capteyne Hatton a Commaunder under him, drove his parke and tooke Thirty and seaven horses or thereabouts for the King's use worth about Three hundred poundes; And the Enemy did burne Sir Walter's Stables, outhouses, and barnes being about Fifty seaven bayes of building wth Corne, graine, hay, timber, Coache, waynes, Cartes, and other things for husbandry to the value of about Two Thousand, one hundred and Fourescore poundes.

And Sir Walter hath advanced for the service of the Parliam^t according to this Deponent's former affidavit of the xxvjth of January 1645 to the some of Eight hundred Thirty and nine poundes: And is indebted to the somme of Two thousand and nine hundred poundes and upwards; All which his sufferings, debts and advance money (here valued) amountes to Six thousand two hundred & nineteene poundes or thereabouts, beside Contribucion paid to the Garrison of Stafford. And his said house being Garrisoned for the State, his demesnes and Tennants' houses there sleyghted, all his pales burned for the Garrison's use, his Timber trees to a greate number lately felled by the Garrison (to avoide Sheltring of the Enemy) is a greate damage to him in his Estate; and the Residue of his Estate lyes under the power of the Enemy, and the Rents thereof by them sequestred; All w^{ch} barres him of his present livelihood whereby to meyneteyne himself, his Lady and Eighte Children: And w^{ch} is more, these Rents following are charged upon and issueing out of his Estate; viz^t. A Fee Farme Rent for Wrottesley per annum

thirteene shillings and Foure pence; To the Curate of Codsall per annum Fifteene poundes; For Respight of homage per annum Eighteene shillings; For a water course to a Hammer mill per annum Eleven poundes and Fifteene shillings; and for a Fee Farme Rent for Orton and Womborne per annum one shilling & six pence. Which is in all per annum Twenty and Eight poundes, seaven shillings, and tenne pence; besides his continuall sufferings before remembered and not valued.

Mark Anthony Galliardello,

Juř. 9^o. die Februarii 1645.¹

On the 24th February 1646, the Committee for compounding made the following report on his case:—

His delinquency is, that when Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice were in that parte of the kingdom, they sent to him for a horse which he sent to Prince Maurice, and durst do no other, a potent army then being quartered round about him, for which as an assistant to those forces, and contributing to them, he is sequestered. That he hath always lived in his owne house untill it was made a garrison for Parliament, which he willingly gave unto. That Sir Walter did disburse for the Parliament £839, and he heth lost by the enemy when they plundered him £2,000, and that he is indebted £3,000. That his cheafe seat is made a garrison for the Parliament, which garrison he maintained for five weeks at his own charge, viz. a troop of horse and a company of foote. All his estate lyes surrounded by the enemy's garrisons, and he was enforced to doe that he did, to preserve himself, his lady and eight children alive, and yet would never yield to make it a garrison for the King, although often solicited. That himself, his lady and children have nothing to live on out of all his estate at present, and that the enemy had taken all his cattle, and burnt his stables, barnes, granaries and corn to the value of £2,000.

He petitioned heere the 28th November last and took the National Covenant before John Sacheverell Minister of Shoreditch the same 28th Nov. 1645, and he took the negative oath heere the 16th Dec. 1645. He compounds upon a particular delivered in under his hand by which it doth appear:—

That he is seised in fee to him and his heirs, in possession, of the manor of Wrottesley and of Wrottesley Parke, and of nine other messuages and farmes, lands and tenements in Wrottesley, and of a manor within Womborne, and divers other lands and tenements in Whitwike, Bilbroke, Tettenhall, Tresle, Sedon, Womborne and Orton of the yearly value before the troubles of £566 for which his fine is £1,132. And seised of old rents, granted out upon estates for lives of certain lands and tenements of the clere annual value before the troubles of £40, for which his fine

¹ State Papers, Domestic, Interregnum, Committee for Compounding, G 176, fol. 197.

is £240. And seised in fee in possession to him and to his heirs of the Rectory of Womborne, of the cleere yerely value, before the troubles of £62, for which his fine is £124. That there is a Vicar endowed upon the Rectory, which is worth to the Vicar £30 per annum. And seised of a life estate in fee to him and to his heirs, of certain tithes in Codshall and Oken, parcel of the Rectory of Tetenhall Clericorum, of the cleere annual value before the troubles of £35 per annum, for which his fine is £70. That the King always finds the Curate of Codshall, only Sir Walter payes £15 per annum encrease of means to the said Curate for ever. The whole fine is £1,566. That he craveth to be allowed this £15 per annum which he payes to the Curate for ever, for which he is to be allowed £30 more; £1 11s. 4d. for the farme rent paid to the Crown and for respite of homage, for which he is to be allowed £3 2s 8d. more; £11 15s. 0d. which he payes yeerely for a watercourse to his mill, which mill is valued in his estate at £40 per annum, and cannot worke without the watercourse, for which he is to be allowed £23 10s. 0d. more. His deductions are therefore £56 12s. 8d.

His composition was finally fixed on the 28th May 1646, at £1,572, to be reduced to £1,332 10s. if he settled £15 per annum for ever, out of his tithes, on the Vicar of Tettenhall.

Simultaneously with the Committee for Compounding at Goldsmiths' Hall, another Committee was sitting in London, which was called the Committee for "the Advance of Money." This Committee had been appointed by Parliament in 1642, under an ordinance which appropriated one-fifth and one-twentieth of all estates for the payment of the forces of Parliament.¹

An abstract of the Proceedings of this Committee has been printed amongst the State Papers, Domestic Series. It states under the heading of:—

Sir Walter Wriottesley, Wrottesley or Rochley of Wriottesley Hall, and Warwick Lane, London.

28 Nov. 1645. His fine was assessed at £500, and on the 10th Dec. 1645 at £1,500.

15 Dec. 1645. Allowed fourteen days to obtain a certificate of what he had paid in the County.²

26 Jan. 1646. His fine was assessed at £600.

29 June 1646. Respited till the sequestration of his estate was taken off.

¹ In 1647, Parliament ordered that these assessments should be made on delinquents only.

² The first certificate of Galliardello may have been made in pursuance of this order; for the two Committees were amalgamated in 1654, and their papers may have become intermixed.

12 February 1647. His estate to be sequestered towards payment of his assessment.¹

14 July 1647. It was ordered that on payment of £50, his assessment of £500 be discharged, as he was much in debt, and had been a great sufferer in the late wars.²

To return to the Committee for Compounding:—

On the 3rd Sept. 1646, an order was made that the County Committee were to return the names of fit persons to be trustees of Sir Walter's estate.

On the 27th May 1647, it was ordered that Sir John Wollaston and others named, were to be trustees and to receive all arrears since the composition.

On the 3rd February 1649, an order was issued to re-sequester Sir Walter's estate as he had not settled £15 a year out of the Rectory for the maintenance of a preaching minister.

On the 24th February this order was revoked on his compliance with it.

Parliament admitted of no neutrality; all estates were sequestered unless the owner was known to be favourable to the popular cause and had materially assisted it. In a declaration of 30th January 1643-44, Parliament denounced as "adversaries and malignants all who on pretext of indifference, refuse to take the Covenant and joyne with all their power in the defence of their cause: all Papists and Popish Recusants who have been in arms under the false pretext of defending the King's person and authority, are to look for no favour but are to be punished as traytors."

The rules for compounding laid down in August 1645 stated that all estates were to be compounded at their estimated value before the war; the proportion varied according to the date of surrender and extent of delinquency, and was two-thirds, one-third, one-sixth and one-tenth. Concealed lands were to be compounded for at four years' purchase in place of two, and all personal property concealed was to be confiscated. Informers of concealed property were to receive one-fifth of the value of it.

Those fined at one-tenth paid on twenty years' purchase or two years' value of their estate. Those fined at one-sixth paid on eighteen years' purchase. Those fined at one-third or one-half paid on fifteen years' purchase, and those at two-thirds on twelve years' purchase.

¹ It appears by this that Sir Walter had paid his composition, and his estate had been returned to him. I think it likely that he had compounded on his own petition with a view of escaping from the clutches of this Committee.

² State Papers, Domestic. Proceedings of the Committee for the Advance of Money.

In the case of forfeited estates one-fifth was reserved for the support of the families of the owners. All who had been in the personal service of the King and were bound to attend him, were fined at the lowest rate, viz., one-tenth.

An act of pardon was passed on the 24th February 1652, which freed from sequestration all estates not sequestered before the 1st December 1651.

An act of 21st October 1653 empowered all Recusants to contract for two-thirds of their estates, which had been forfeited for religious opinions. By this act they were to pay four years' value of their estates and one-third of their personalty.¹

There appears, however, to have been a considerable amount of favouritism, and those who had friends on the two Committees fared very much better than others.

On the 28th July 1644, the Committee for the Advance of Money assessed Sir Hervey Bagot, of Field and Blithfield, at £2,000, but on the 9th June 1648, on proof that his estate was only worth £1,745 and his debts were £3,120, his assessment was discharged and he paid nothing.²

An informer gave the following particulars respecting Mr. William Ward, of Himley, co. Stafford, the rich goldsmith, who had purchased the wardship of the Dudley heiress from James I. He stated that William Ward was the reputed owner of Himley, Dudley and other manors in co. Stafford, which had cost him £30,000. He had lent the King £400 or £500, had given £500 to have his son made a Baronet and £1,500 to have him made a Peer and Justice of the Peace. This last item was probably correct, for the date of the Barony of Ward is 1643. The son Humble, Lord Ward, was married to the Dudley heiress, and an information was laid against him that he had been taken prisoner in Dudley Castle when it was surrendered, and his estate had been sequestered.

No further proceedings were taken in these cases and it is difficult to resist the conviction that there was favouritism or bribery which affected the decisions of both Committees.

One of the most remarkable cases was that of Walter Astley, of Patshull. An information was laid against him and his son Richard on the 2nd December 1651, which stated that Walter³ was a disaffected Papist who had made his house a garrison for the King in 1644 and 1645, and had sent two of his sons with horses, arms and money to

¹ State Papers—Committee for Compounding, Record Series, printed.

² He had, however, to compound for his estates in 1646 at three years' purchase, having sat in the Assembly at Oxford. In 1649 his fine was fixed at £1,004 17s. Od.

³ Erroneously called William Astley in the information.

the King's army, and that Richard Astley was a Captain in the King's garrison at Dudley in 1643-44-45. On the 10th April 1655, the County Committee reported that an information had been laid in 1651, but no proceedings had been taken under it, and as the cause was not depending on the 10th February 1654, it was pardoned by the Act of Oblivion. Mr. Astley was therefore to be restored to the full possession of his estates.

Henry Grey, the brother-in-law of Sir Walter Wrottesley, likewise escaped sequestration. An information was laid against him in July 1650 that he had maintained a garrison against Parliament at his house at Enville, and in 1643-44 was in arms for the King and was at the fight at Stourton Castle. Henry Grey's cousin, Lord Grey of Groby, the regicide, was one of the Committee for compounding, and apparently had stopped all proceedings against his relative.

There were many other cases where the men who actually bore arms against Parliament were treated with more leniency than those who maintained a neutral attitude, thus:—In 1650 an information was laid against Colonel John Lane, of Wolverhampton, who had served three years as a Colonel for the King and had commanded the King's garrison at Stafford, but no proceedings were taken in his case. On the other hand his father, Thomas Lane, of Bentley, who never bore arms, had to compound for his estates.

In the same way Hervey Bagot, of Park Hall, co. Warwick, a son of Sir Hervey Bagot, who had been in arms for the King, escaped sequestration, whilst his father, who never bore arms, had to pay a fine of one-third. It is possible, however, that in these cases, both Lane and Bagot had been serving in garrisons, which had surrendered upon terms. Richard, another son of Sir Hervey Bagot, who commanded the garrison at Lichfield, had been killed at Naseby in 1645.

Another remarkable case was that of Sir Richard Prince, Sir Walter's relative, who had married Mary Wrottesley in 1618, see p. 294. In his petition to compound he stated that he had been imprisoned at Shrewsbury when it was a garrison for the King, owing to his affection for Parliament, that his son and heir was a Colonel in the service of the Parliament and had been slain in battle, and that he had paid his one-fifth and one-twentieth. Notwithstanding these circumstances, he was forced to compound. His composition was fixed at one-tenth and amounted to £1,400, but on the 16th September 1647 his Fine was reduced to £750 on his undertaking to discharge his son's debts. On the 18th December 1650, Rochley (Wrottesley) Prince and Susan Prince, two of his children, were allowed one-half of some property in Bettisfield, co. Flint, which they

had purchased in 1644, and which had been sequestered with the rest of their father's estate.

Other interesting cases were those of Dugdale and Ashmole. William Dugdale, who is styled Chester Herald, of Shustoke, co. Warwick, had his estate sequestered because he went to Oxford and was there at the date of the surrender. He paid £168 in 1646, on a composition of one-tenth. In 1650, an information was laid against Elias Ashmole, Gentleman. It states that he was a Gentleman of the Ordnance for the King in 1647, and was a very dangerous person, speaking against the Parliament. He had married the widow of Sir Thomas Mainwaring, by whom he had £600 a year or more. No proceedings appear to have been taken in this instance.

Summarising the contents of the Composition Papers, it appears that the Protestant landowners who actually fought for the King were twelve in number, these were:—

Sir Edward Littleton	Lord Ward of Dudley
Henry Grey of Enville	John Lane of Hide ¹
Thomas Broughton	Sir Thomas Wolrich, Bart.
Walter Noel of Hilcot	Sir Henry Griffiths of Wichnor
William Brereton	Randolph Egerton, and
Thomas Pershouse	Richard Cresswell, of Perton. ²

The Roman Catholic landowners who took up arms for the King were:—

Walter Astley of Patshull and two sons	Sir William Peshall of Canwell and two sons
Francis Biddulph ³	Oliver FitzWilliam of Ipstones
Thomas Coyney of Weston Coyney	Thomas Leveson of Wolverhampton
Philip Draycote of Painsley	Thomas Whitgreave of Moseley
Walter Fowler of St. Thomas	Lord Aston of Tixall and two brothers
Ralph Sneyd of Keele	Sir Richard Fleetwood of Calwich
Peter Giffard of Chillington, his eldest son Walter Giffard of Marston, and three younger sons	William FitzHerbert of Swynerton, and
Sir Richard Weston ⁴ and his son	Francis Harcourt of Tanton.

The landowners who attempted to maintain a neutral attitude and whose estates were sequestrated upon various pretences, were:—

¹ This is the Colonel Lane who assisted so materially in the escape of Charles II. The part his sister Jane Lane took in the King's escape is well known. Their father, Thomas Lane of Bentley, was still alive.

² In addition to these, Mr. Sleigh in his "History of Leek," mentions William Trafford of Swithamley as one of those who took up arms for the King.

³ His father, John Biddulph of Biddulph, died in November 1642, after the commencement of the war.

⁴ Sir Richard Weston was one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and was sixty-five years of age in 1642.

Sir Hervey Bagot of Field and Blithfield	Sir Walter Wrottesley
Sir Richard Leveson of Trent-ham	Lord Paget of Beaudesert
William Ward of Himley	Sir Thomas Leigh of Hamstall Ridware
Matthew Okeover of Okeover	John Whorwood of Stourton
Walter Chetwynd of Ingestre	Sir Edward Vernon of Hilton
Thomas Kinnersley of Loxley	Richard Brereton
Thomas Lane of Bentley	Sir Edward Moseley of Rolston
Sir John Skeffington of Fisherswick	Henry Vyse of Standon
Sir Robert Wolseley	Richard Pershouse of Reynolds Hall
Sir Richard Dyot of Freeford	Simon Montfort of Bescot and
William Comberford	Walter Grosvenor of Bush-bury.

There were also some Roman Catholic landowners, who from age and other causes, were not in arms for the King, and whose estates were sequestrated. These were:—

Sir Walter Heveningham, of Aston	Walter Brook of Lapley
John Biddulph of Biddulph	Viscount Stafford
Thomas Coyney of Weston Coyney	Peter Macclesfield of Maer, and
	John Giffard, of Whiteladies.

The above lists account for fifty-eight out of the ninety-eight landowners, who had to find cuirassiers or light horse in 1634,¹ and who may be said to be fairly representative of the landed interest in the county. The remaining forty must have been active adherents of Parliament. Deducting, therefore, the Roman Catholics, who were twenty-three in number, we find that of the Protestant landowners, twelve served the King actively, twenty were neutral, and forty served against him, proportions which will probably astonish those readers who derive their impressions of the political feeling of the day from current histories.²

There is little else to record respecting Sir Walter Wrottesley. In 1642, at the commencement of the troubles, he placed all his property into trust, with power to the trustees to pay his debts and raise portions for his children. His trustees were:—Sir Richard Lee, of the Lee, co. Salop, Baronet, Edward Littleton, Kt., Humfrey Mackworth, Leicester Devereux, John Dyekins, John Byrch and Alexander Wightwyke. The property conveyed consisted of the manors of Wrottesley, Tettnall Clericorum, Butterson, Woodford,

¹ Vol. xv, Staffordshire Collections, p. 228.

² Lingard, for instance, a most accurate historian in general, states that three fourths of the nobility and superior gentry ranged themselves under the royal banner; whereas it has been shewn above that in Staffordshire, considered a very Royalist county, more fought against the King than for him.

Tresley (Trysull), Womborne and Lichfield, and lands in Wolverhampton, Tipton, Swindon, Waterfall, Codsall, Bilbrook Orton, Wightwike, Longdon and Curburgh, and the tythes of Codsall, Wrottesley, Bilbrook, Tetnall Clericorum, Wightwike, Womborne and Orton.

In 1654 his eldest son Walter was married to Margaret, the eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Wolrich, of Dudmaston, co. Salop. The marriage settlement was dated 20th September.¹

It does not appear to have been a very advantageous marriage from a pecuniary point of view, and was probably a love match. Sir Thomas Wolrich had fought for the King, but had afterwards been allowed to compound, having laid down his arms before the 1st March 1645. His composition at two years' value of his estate amounted to £730.

Sir Walter died in 1659. He made three wills, of which copies were formerly at Wrottesley. His first will, which was made in 1634, the year after he succeeded to his property, names his daughters Elizabeth and Mary, his sons Hugh and Edward, and his brother William.

The second will was dated 1647, and mentions:—

My oldest sonne Walter, my daughter Elizabeth, my daughter Mary now wife of Edward Littleton, Esq.,² my daughter Dorothy Wrottesley, my daughter Anne Wrottesley, my daughter Jane Wrottesley, and my three younger sons Edward, Richard and John, and Dame Mary my wife, who is to dwell after my decease att Woolford Grange if she shall desire it, or to have for her dwellinge the Gate Howse of my howse att Wrottesley, with the longe new buildinge thereunto adjoyninge (excepting) my chamber and study over the Gate howse which extendeth to the garden before the Parlour windowes which my will and mind is that my said sonne Walter and his heires shall have and use at his wyll and pleasure, with free ingresse egressse and regresse to and from the same. And that my said wife shall alsoe have the Gallery and the roomes over the Kitchen entrye, pantrye and Buttrye where shee, her children and maides of late have used to lye, and one other roome within her chamber and the joint use of the bleaching Plott end of the Kitchen and some convenient place for a Buttrye garden, and stable roome, and to have the use of all such goods and furniture as shall bee in the said Gatehowse and new buildinges and other the rooms aforesaid att my decease soe long as shee shall live sole and unmarried.³

His last will was dated 16th June 1659 and was proved in London on the 14th of January 1660-61, by Mary

¹ Wrottesley Muniments. The bride's name is spelt Woolridge in the deed.

² In a codicil dated 1650 he is styled Sir Edward Littleton.

³ Wrottesley Muniments. See the picture of the old house at p. 301.

Wrottesley, his widow and executrix. He left all his household goods and chattels to his wife for the discharge of his legacies and the education of his three youngest daughters Dorothy, Anne and Joane, so long as she should remain his widow. After her death or remarriage, the same were to be held by his youngest son John Wrottesley and his said three daughters, in augmentation of such small portions and meanes which testator's eldest son is to pay and allowe to them, and to be equally divided amongst them or the survivors of them. And whereas he had settled his lands upon Walter, his eldest son, and made provision for the future livelihood of Edward Wrottesley his second son and his two eldest daughters Elizabeth and Mary, he bequeathed to them 5s. a piece in money. After some further bequests to his servants and the poor of Wolverhampton and Tettenhall, he desires "my noble kinsman Leicester Lorde Viscount Hereforde and my dearly beloved unkle Sir George Devereux, Knight," to be overseers of his will.

Sir Walter was buried at Tettenhall on the 8th November 1659.¹

Of the children mentioned in the three wills,

Walter succeeded him at Wrottesley.

Hugh predeceased his father and was buried at Tettenhall on the 23rd March 1640-41.¹

Edward, the third son, was baptised at Tettenhall on the 19th January 1633-34.¹ He married Martha, daughter of Sir Thomas Hewett, of Shire Oaks, co. Notts.² Walter, son of Edward Wrottesley, of Shire Oaks, gentleman, matriculated at Wadham College 19th March 1674-5,³ aged twenty, but appears to have left no issue.

Richard, the fourth son, was baptised in the chapel at Wrottesley on the 28th February 1637-38,⁴ and the Tettenhall Registers record his burial at Tettenhall on the 11th September 1655.

John, the fifth son, was a merchant in Portugal. An interesting report on the English trade with Portugal in 1673, is to be found in the Dartmouth MSS., printed by the Historical MS. Commission, vol. iii, p. 27. In this report John Wrottesley is named amongst the leading English merchants at Port-o-Porto. The trade is said to have been very lucrative, and many of the merchants had made large fortunes.

¹ Tettenhall Registers.

² Visitation of Staffordshire 1663.

³ Foster's Alumni Oxonienses.

⁴ Codsall Registers.

Of the daughters—

Elizabeth married Sir Francis Wolrich of Dudmaston, co. Salop, the second Baronet,¹ and son of Sir Thomas Wolrich, the old Cavalier.

Mary married Sir Edward Littleton of Pillaton Hall,¹ the second Baronet, and ancestor of the present Lord Hatherton.

A note by Gregory King,² at the end of the Visitation Book of 1663-4, says that—

“The three younger daughters of Sir Walter Wrottesley were thus married—

3. Dorothy³ to Ambrose Grey of Whittington, co. Stafford, her half uncle, viz., son of Ambrose Grey of Enville, by his second wife.
4. Anne to Monsieur Francis de la Rue, a Frenchman.
5. Jane to Mr. John Adams, fifth son of William Adams of Longdon, co. Salop.”

The pedigree of Wrottesley in this Visitation is dated Wolverhampton, 8th April 1663, and is certified by Sir Walter Wrottesley, the second Baronet, but he does not mention the last three marriages; the first, in fact, would not be a legal marriage, according to the Canonical Laws. A Visitation of Shropshire in the possession of the Earl of Bradford at Weston-under-Lyzard, states that Jane Wrottesley married John, a younger son of William Adams of Longdon, and left a son who was called Wrottesley Adams, and that the arms of Adams were—Ermine, three lions passant, Blue. These arms are of interest as they appear to be a variant of the arms of Giffard of Brimsfield, and it is not unlikely that this family of Adams of Longdon descended from that Adam de Cromba, or Croom, co. Worcester, who was a Giffard (see “The Giffards,” vol. v, New Series, Staffordshire Collections, p. 74).⁴

ARMS OF SIR WALTER WROTTESELEY, BART.

On the dexter side—Or, three piles, Sable, a quarter Ermine, for Wrottesley.

On the sinister side—Barry of six, Argent and Azure, with a crescent, Or, for cadency (Grey of Groby).

¹ Visitation of Staffordshire 1663.

² Gregory King was the clerk of Sir William Dugdale, who made the Visitation of 1663.

³ Dorothy was baptized in the Wrottesley Chapel on the 7th December 1637 (Codsall Register). All the marriages and baptisms celebrated in the Wrottesley Chapel are recorded at Codsall, owing probably to the fact that the Codsall minister officiated at them.

⁴ If this surmise is correct it is very probable that George Adams of Sambrooke, co. Salop, the ancestor of the Earls of Lichfield, was a member of the same family, and a lineal descendant of the Giffards of Brimsfield. The family of Sambrooke bore—Ermine, three cats a mountain passant guardant in pale, Sable.

SIR WALTER WROTTESELEY, SECOND BARONET, 1659-86.

From this point, is is proposed to deal with the family history in a more summary manner.

Sir Walter, the first baronet, was succeeded by a son of the same name, who, it has been shewn, married, in 1654, Margaret, the eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Wolrich, of Dudmaston, co. Salop. His life appears to have been entirely uneventful, the most important incident of it, so far as the fortunes of the family were concerned, being the purchase of the manor of Perton and Trescott. This manor intervened between Wrottesley and the other possessions of the family in Womborne, Trysull, and Woodford, but up to this date it had not been possible to obtain an undisputed title to it. After nearly 200 years of legal strife between the families of Stafford of Hoke, Dudley, and Leveson, it had been finally decided by a deed dated 2nd February 1652, that "in order to allay all contentions respecting the manor Sir Richard Leveson of Lilleshall, Knight of the Bath, should hold Perton and Trescott for his life, and that it should revert, after his death, to Lord Dorset and his heirs."¹ Lord Dorset was the heir presumptive of Sir Richard through his grandmother Mary Leveson. In 1664, after the death of Sir Richard Leveson, the manor was sold by Richard Sackville, Earl of Dorset, to Sir Walter Wrottesley.

In 1673, he lost his wife, Margaret Wolrich. At this date she must have been under forty years of age. She was buried at Tettenhall on the 9th October.²

In 1675, Sir Walter was appointed, by Letters Patent, one of the Crown Trustees for the administration of an annual sum of £451 6s. 7½d. granted by the King for the benefit of the Pendrell family and of the widow and descendants of Francis Yates, who had assisted in the concealment of the King at Boscobel in 1651. The other trustees were Richard Congreve of Stretton and John the eldest son of Walter Giffard of Chillington. John Giffard was the last survivor of the three trustees, and the trust is now administered by his heir and legal representative, Walter Courtenay Giffard of Chillington. Shortly after the issue of the Letters Patent, the trustees

¹ The hamlet of Trescott was originally divided between the two fees of Perton and Buffary of Penn. William Buffary, lord of Penn, living temp. Henry II, granted his part of Trescott to the monks of Combe. (See vol. iii, Staffordshire Collections, p. 221.) This part was known as Trescott Grange. On the dissolution of the monasteries, Trescott Grange was acquired by William Wollaston of Walshall, and his representatives sold it to Sir Walter Wrottesley, the second Baronet (Wrottesley Muniments). For an account of the lawsuits respecting Perton, see Mr. Jones' "History of Tettenhall."

² Tettenhall Register.

executed a power of attorney, authorizing George Lea to receive the rents specified and to pay them to the Pendrells and descendants of Francis Yates. This deed, which was formerly at Wrottesley, was signed by all the Pendrell family mentioned in the Letters Patent. Of these one only, Mary the widow of Richard Pendrell (trusty Dick), was able to write her name. William Pendrell signs with his initials, W.P.; the three others, John, Humfrey and George Pendrell, all sign with a cross. In view of the various spellings of this name it may be as well to mention that Mary signs her name as Mary Pendrill.

Sir Walter died in 1686. When he certified to the Wrottesley Pedigree at the Visitation of 1663 he described himself as thirty-two years of age. He would be therefore fifty-five years of age at the date of his death. In his will, which is dated the 30th October 1685, he described himself as "Sir Walter Wrottesley of Purton in the county of Stafford," and as the house at Wrottesley was rebuilt by his son and successor, it was probably in such a state of decay at this time as to be uninhabitable. Most if not all of the ancient manor houses in Staffordshire were timber framed, and if the main timbers decayed there was no resource but to pull them down.

He bequeathed to his eldest son Walter, on whom he stated that he had already settled a plentiful estate in lands, his lease of the tithes of Trescott Grange, which he held of the Vicars Choral of Lichfield, and also the farm of Trescott Grange which were lately purchased of John Finch, Esqr., and Sarah his wife, to be held by him and his heirs male in tail in the same way as his manor of Wrottesley and his other lands were settled upon him. To his daughter Anne he left £1,000, to be paid her on the day of her marriage, or on reaching the age of twenty-one, which should first happen. To his son Harry 5s. and no more, because he had received already £1,300. To his son Gray Wrottesley £1,000. To his daughters Ursula and Anne, all the furniture in the house at Purton; and the rest of his goods, chattels and money to his son Walter.

The will was proved in London on the 24th June 1686.

Of the sons and daughters of Sir Walter, Henry died unmarried in 1726.¹ Gray likewise died unmarried in 1692, when letters of administration of his effects were granted to his brother, Sir Walter Wrottesley, the third baronet.² Ursula,

¹ Tettenhall Register.

² Wrottesley Muniments.

the eldest daughter, married Thomas Crompton, Esq., of Stone Park, co. Stafford, by whom she had an only daughter, Elizabeth, who died unmarried.¹

SIR WALTER WROTTESELEY, THIRD BARONET, 1686-1712.

Walter, son of Walter Wrottesley of Wrottesley, co. Stafford, Baronet, matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, on the 18th March 1675-6, aged seventeen. He was therefore born in 1659.

In 1678, when only nineteen years of age, he was married to Eleanora, the daughter of Sir John Archer, Kt., of Coopersale, co. Essex, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas. The marriage allegation was dated 28th June 1678, and was to the following effect:—Walter Wrottesley of Wrottesley, co. Stafford, Esqr., batchelor, about twenty, with consent of father, Sir Walter Wrottesley of the same, Baronet, and Mrs. Eleanora Archer of Coopersale in the Parish of Theydon Garnon, co. Essex, about eighteen, with consent of father, Sir John Archer, Kt., of St. Clement's Danes, Middlesex.²

In the marriage settlement made on this occasion Sir Walter Wrottesley, the father, conveyed to trustees for the benefit of the young couple, saving his own life interest, his manor of Wrottesley, a moiety of the manor of Oaken, the manor of Tettenhall Clericorum, the manor of Tresley and Seisden, the manors of Wombourne and Orton, Woodford Grange and Perton and Trescott, all his lands in Wrottesley, Oaken, Oaken Park, Codshall, Billbroke and Wightwike, the tithes of Wrottesley, Oaken, Codshall, Billbroke, Wightwike, Wombourne, Swindon, Orton and Chaspell, co. Stafford, a forge called the Heath forge in Wombourne and Orton, and the tithes of Perton and Heath forge. Sir John Archer on his part settled a sum of £6,000 upon Walter and Elianora and their issue.³

Elianora died in January 1693-4 when only thirty-three years of age,⁴ and shortly after her death Sir Walter married Anne, the daughter of Mr. Justice Burton of Longnor, co. Salop.⁵ About the same time he pulled down the old hall at Wrottesley, filled up the moat, and built

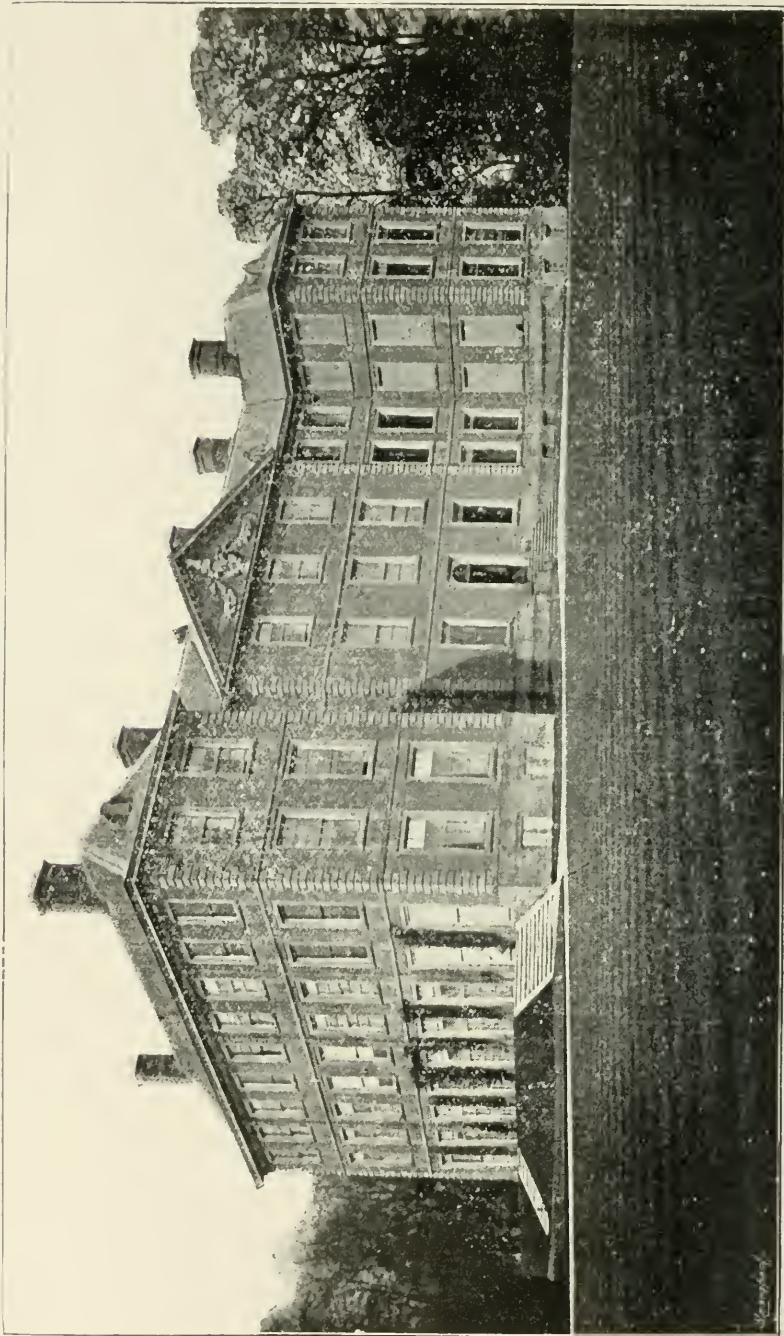
¹ Notes by H. S. Grazebrook to the Staffordshire Visitation of 1663, vol. v, Staffordshire Collections, p. 332.

² Harleian Society Publications.

³ Wrottesley Muniments.

⁴ Tettenhall Register. She was buried on the 28th of January 1693-4.

⁵ Wotton's Baronetage.



Wrottesley Hall, Built 1896,
Destroyed by Fire, 16th December, 1907.

a new house upon the same site¹ None of the accounts or correspondence respecting the new house were preserved at Wrottesley, but from intrinsic evidence there can be no doubt of its having been designed by Sir Christopher Wren. It was built of red brick with stone dressings, and the details of the stone work correspond in all respects to those of Chelsea Hospital, which had just been completed by the same architect. The double architrave to the windows, the stone quoins, and the block cornice were the same as those of the Hospital. In the case of some of the windows and doors there was a change in the design of the architrave, a torus moulding having been introduced into it, and the same variation is to be found at Chelsea Hospital.

As originally designed the house must have been a handsome building. The great banquetting hall or saloon was 43 feet in length, 28 feet in width, and the same in height, running through two stories, and with two tiers of windows. At the west end there was a minstrel gallery, to which access was obtained from the main staircase. The latter was a very fine feature in the house, occupying a space of 26 feet by 20 feet, with a massive oak balustrading and dado. At the back of the house were open cloisters formed by arches springing from columns. These extended the whole length of the house between the wings, and were 88 feet in length and 16 feet 6 inches in width. Above the cloisters there was a gallery of the same dimensions, lighted by seven windows, divided by mullions and transoms, in which were some ancient coats of arms in colored glass, which had been taken out of the old house. Dr. Wilkes, the antiquary, writing about the year 1740, says, "At Wrottesley is a most magnificent house with stables, outhouses, gardens, etc., begun by this young gentleman's grandfather" and tis a great pity they are not finished according to the original design." In a note, added about fifty years later, Dr. Wilkes says, "The house was built about 100 years ago in the style of King William, of brick with white stone cornices in the form of an H, large and commodious but not handsome." Between these two dates the aspect of the house had been completely changed, all the characteristic features of it having been obliterated by the eighth Baronet. The dormer windows had been removed from the roof, the cloisters bricked up,

¹ There is an old Tudor window with stone mullions and transoms covered by the stone work of the new house, on the east side.

² "The young gentleman" was Sir Richard Wrottesley, who was under age at the time Dr. Wilkes wrote.

and the great gallery which was the glory of the house had been destroyed to obtain additional bedrooms. It was at this date also that additional flues were cut in the walls of the house, one of which, by communicating with the woodwork of the floors, was the cause of the destruction of the house by fire in 1897.

The tradition in the family is that the house was built from money which Sir Walter obtained with Elianora Archer, and this is likely to be true, for the Archer arms were impaled with those of Wrottesley in the pediment on the front of the house, though his first wife had been dead several years before the building was completed.¹

During the rebuilding of the house Sir Walter lived at Somerford, which he had bought from the mortgagees of John Somerford,² and he died there in 1712,³ aged fifty-three.

His will was dated the 14th November 1707, and was proved at London on the 18th March 1712-13 by Dame Anne Wrottesley, the relict and executrix. It states:—

“Imprimis, whereas I did some short time after the death of my first wife, grant an annuity or yearly rent charge of seven hundred pounds to be issuing and going out of all and every my mannors, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments that I was then seised of in the County of Stafford during the time of my naturall life upon trust for the maintenance and raising of portions for the younger children of my said deceased wife, whereby considerable portions and provisions have been, and will be raised for them for their respective preferments; and therefore I do give and devise to my eldest son Mr. John Wrottesley and to all and every of my younger children by his mother, that shall be living at my decease, the summe of twenty shillings a peece to buy them respectively mourning rings to wear in remembrance of me. Item, I give and devise all and every the messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever I have purchased or am in any way intituled unto either in law or equity in the Parish of Brewood in the County of Stafford unto my loving wife the Lady Anne Wrottesley and her assigns for and during the term of her naturall life, and from and after her decease I give and devise the same unto my son Walter Wrottesley and his assigns for and during the term of his natural life without impeachment of or for any manner of waste, and from and after his decease to the use and behoof of such person and persons and for such estate and estates as I have caused the mansion house called Somerford Hall wherein I now live, to be settled unto, and my will is that the said messuages, lands, etc., by me purchased as aforesaid of William Challoner, Edward Jellicoe⁴

¹ The date on one of the leaden hopper heads of the rain water pipes was 1698.

² Parke's "History of Brewood," pp. 80 and 103.

³ He was buried at Brewood on the 4th of April 1712 (Brewood Register).

⁴ On 22nd January 1704 Edward Jellicoe of Standeford surrendered the

and John Bill or any other person whatsoever situate in Somerford or elsewhere in the parish of Brewood from and after the death of my said loving wife the Lady Anne Wrottesley and the death of my said son Walter to whom I have devised the same for their lives, as aforesaid, shall go along with the said Somerford Hall to such uses as the same is settled unto and upon the same trusts, etc., in the Indentures or deeds of purchase thereof mentioned. Item, I give, desire and bequeath unto my dear and loving wife the Lady Anne Wrottesley all the rest and residue of my personall estate whatsoever, and I do nominate constitute and appoint her sole executrix of this my last will and testament, and desire her to perform the same in all things."

A codicil was afterwards added in these words:—

"I revoke that part of my will wherein I leave my daughter Henrietta and my son Hugh each of them a small legacy amongst my first wife's younger children, and leave them but a shilling a piece each, and I desire to be buried in Brewood church or churchyard where my now wife intends to lye buried, and I desire my Funerall may be as private as possible, only eight gentlemen bearers to be invited." Dated 24th March A.D. 1711.

His second marriage had been the cause of many dissensions in the family.

Sir Walter's children by his first wife were—

Walter, who died young in 1686.¹

John, who succeeded him as fourth Baronet.

Elleanor, who married William Eyre, and who succeeded to Coopersale on the death of her uncle, John Archer.

Henrietta, or Harriet, who was born in June 1688, and died unmarried in 1719-20.²

Mary, born 4th March 1691-2. She died unmarried in 1711.³ By her will, which was dated 1710, she bequeathed money which had been left to her "by her grandmother Archer" and her "uncle Archer" amongst the following relatives, viz., "my brother

greater part of his copyholds, which were late the lands of John Somerford, Esqr., to Walter Wrottesley, son of Walter Wrottesley, Baronet, whose fealty was respited because he was under age. (Court Rolls of Brewood quoted by Mr. Parke in his "History of Brewood.")

¹ Tettenhall Register.

² She left behind her a devoted admirer, who put up a monument to her memory in Worcester Cathedral. This consists of a mural tablet in marble inscribed as follows:—

"To the memory of Henrietta Wrottesley, daughter of Sir Walter Wrottesley in the County of Stafford, Bart., who dyed the 10th day of March 1719 in the 30th year of her age.

A lady whose good nature and good sense justly recommended her to the favour of the world, her exemplary piety and charity to that of Heaven.

NON TE SECUNDA, NON TE RESTITVET PIETAS.

W. Davis grato animo posuit."

A print of this monument is given in Dr. Thomas' "Survey of the Cathedral Church of Worcester, 1736."

³ Codsall Register.

John Wrottesley," "my nephew John Wrottesley," "my brother Hugh," "my sister Harriott," "my uncle Wrottesley,"¹ and "my father Sir Walter Wrottesley." Her sister Elizabeth was made residuary legatee.

Hugh, a lawyer of Lincoln's Inn, a Fellow of the Antiquarian Society, and a diligent collector of works on Archæology. These he left by his will, as heirlooms, to pass with the Wrottesley estates.²

Elizabeth, who married Anthony Collins of Baddow, co. Essex.³

By his second wife Sir Walter left a son

Walter, and two daughters,

Margaret, born in June 1696,⁴ who appears to have died unmarried, and

Anne, who married Thomas Hutchinson of Woodhall, co. Hereford, and of Owthorpe, co. Notts. She was baptised at Brewood on the 22nd September 1702.

To complete the story of the Somerford property. It appears that in 1694 the manor of Somerford, with the capital mansion and lands in Somerford, Horsebrook, Stretton and Brewood, late the estate of John Somerford, Esq., Robert Miles, and Roger Ward, were settled by Fine and Recovery on Dame Anne, the wife of Sir Walter

¹ Her grandmother Archer was Eleanor, daughter of Sir John Curson of Kedelston, co. Derby. Her uncle Archer was John Archer, who succeeded to Coopersale and died s.p. Her uncle Wrottesley was Henry Wrottesley. John Archer settled the Coopersale property upon his niece Elianora Wrottesley, who married William Eyre and died s.p. By her will she left Coopersale to her husband, who remarried, and his son John, by his second wife, succeeded to the property and assumed the name of Archer (Morant's Essex). Sir John Archer, the Judge, died 8th February 1681-2, aged eighty-two. He was buried at Theydon Garnon Church, where a monument is set up to his memory. (*Ibid.*)

² After some bequests to his brother, Sir John Wrottesley, and his sister, Elizabeth Wrottesley, the will proceeds:—

"Item my books which I have with much care, trouble and expense collected, and the value of which I judge to be £2,000, I give to my said brother Sir John Wrottesley in trust only, that the same shall go along with the inheritance of the Wrottesley estate, and what may be further necessary to be done in order to settle it in that manner, I do desire my said brother will take care of."

The library consisted of over 8,000 volumes, and contained many rare editions of the classics and a complete series of the ancient chronicles of Great Britain, many of which were in black letter and original editions. The library also contained many volumes of rare tracts, and news letters of the seventeenth century, a fine copy of De Brie, a folio Shakespeare, the original edition of Sir Walter Raleigh's travels, and every antiquarian work of note which had been printed up to 1725, the date of Hugh Wrottesley's death.

The will was dated 1722 and proved in 1725. A deposition of two witnesses at the end of the will states that he died on the 26th June 1725.

³ Wotton's Baronetage.

⁴ Tettenhall Registers.

Wrottesley, Bart.¹ She, by will dated 27th July 1729, devised the same to her daughter Anne, the wife of Thomas Hutchinson, Esq., of Owthorpe, co. Notts, her brother Thomas Burton of Longner Hall, co. Salop, and Peter Meyrick of the Bank of England, Esq., in trust to sell the same, and it was sold in 1734 for £5,400 to Robert Barbor, Esq., of the Inner Temple.¹

The son, Walter Wrottesley, appears to have died before his mother. He married a Miss Craig and left a son Thomas, who married in 1733 his cousin Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir John Wrottesley, the fourth Baronet.² Thomas left no issue, and in his will, which was dated 29th September 1733, he devised to Magdalen Craig, spinster, and to her heirs, his manor of Coven in the parish of Brewood, and his lands and tenements in the said manor and townships of Coven, Bishbury, Penford, Aspley and Somerford. This estate was conveyed to Robert Barbor, Esq., of the Inner Temple, for £3,550.¹

Dame Anne Wrottesley was buried at Brewood on the 10th of July 1732, having survived her husband for more than twenty years. The courtly Vicar of Brewood describes her in his Register as "The Honorable Lady Anne Wrottesley of Somerford, widow."³

SIR JOHN WROTTESELEY, FOURTH BARONET, 1712-26.

Owing to the loss of the "Family Bible" by the fire of 1897, I am unable to state the year in which this Sir John was born, and the only note I have taken respecting him from the Wrottesley muniments is that he was married in 1703 to Frances Gray (*sic*), younger daughter of the Honble. John Gray. Assuming that he was of age at the date of his marriage he would have been born about 1682. His parents were married in 1678.

In 1708, during the lifetime of his father, he was elected member for the county in conjunction with Henry Paget, afterwards Earl of Uxbridge. At this period, the Whig interest greatly preponderated owing to the victories of Marlborough, but before the next election, in 1710, the tide had turned, the Whig Ministry had been dismissed, the Tories had a majority, and John Wrottesley lost his seat.

¹ Lysons' Collections, Additional MS. 9459, British Museum.

² Gentleman's Magazine.

³ Brewood Registers. The Gentleman's Magazine states that she died on the 1st of July 1732.

According to Wotton "Sir John was a gentleman of strict honor and justice, and highly valued by the county for which he was chosen a representative in 1708."¹ The same authority informs us that he married Frances, daughter of the Honble. John Grey, of Enville, Esquire, the third son of Henry, Earl of Stamford, by Catherine, his second wife, the daughter of Edward, Lord Dudley and Ward, by whom he had five sons, John, who died in November 1723;² Charles, who died in 1724,³ both in their minority; Sir Hugh, Sir Walter, and Sir Richard, who were successively Baronets, and five daughters. Of these:—

Hugh, the third son, succeeded as fifth Baronet, but died in his minority in 1729, when letters of administration of his effects were granted to Dame Frances Wrottesley, his mother.⁴ He was succeeded by his next brother

Walter, the sixth Baronet, who died a minor two years afterwards. He was buried at Tettenhall on the 28th of February 1731-2.⁵

Richard, who succeeded as seventh Baronet.

Frances, the eldest daughter, was born on the 16th of October 1711,⁶ and married, first, Heigham Bendish, Esq., of East Ham, Essex,¹ and secondly, in 1756, Dr. Wilkes of Willenhall, the well known antiquary.⁶

Elizabeth, the second daughter, was born on the 5th of November 1713,⁷ and married her cousin Thomas Wrottesley,⁸ the son of Sir Walter, the third Baronet, by his second wife. After his death she married Francis Stuart of Wolverhampton, by whom she left issue.⁴

¹ Wotton's Baronetage, 1741, *ex inf.* Sir Richard Wrottesley.

² John was born 21st September 1708, and baptised 1st October (Codsall Register).

³ There is an error here for Charles Wrottesley was buried at Tettenhall on the 18th of March 1722-3. The Codsall Register states he was born and baptized at Wrottesley on the 14th March 1718.

⁴ Wrottesley Muniments.

⁵ Tettenhall Register.

⁶ Harwood's Erdeswick. Dr. Wilkes was the representative of a very old family of gentle blood, which had been seated at Willenhall for many generations. According to the author of "Staffordshire and Warwickshire, Past and Present," he was born 16th March 1690-91, and educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, and married Rebecca Manlove, of Lees Hill, Abbots Bromley. "In 1756, being a widower, he married Mrs. Frances Bendish, sister of Sir Richard Wrottesley, Bart. He died in 1760, aged seventy, and his widow died at a very advanced age in 1798. He was an eminent physician and a diligent and inquisitive lover of antiquities." His collections are now in the William Salt Library at Stafford.

⁷ Codsall Register.

⁸ Wotton's Baronetage, 1741.

Henrietta, the third daughter, was born on the 25th of November 1715,¹ and married Theodore William Inge, Esq., of Thorpe Constantine, co. Stafford.²

Dorothy or Dora, as she is named in the Codsall Register, was born and baptised at Wrottesley 8th May 1723.³ The Tettenhall Register records her burial on the 12th of August 1742. She is described in it as "Dorothy, the daughter of Lady Wrottesley, of Purton." Probate of her will was granted to her mother in 1743.

Mary was born and baptised the 12th of October 1725.³ She was living in 1762, at the date of her mother's will, and apparently died unmarried.⁴

Sir John Wrottesley was buried at Tettenhall on the 1st of November 1726.⁵ His will was dated 1725, and probate was granted of it in February 1726-7. He names in it "my uncle Harry Wrottesley," "my wife Frances," "Anthony Collins, Esqr., and my sister Elizabeth, his wife."

After the marriage of Sir Richard Wrottesley, his mother Frances, Lady Wrottesley, took up her abode at the old Manor House at Perton, and must have lived to a very advanced age, for the Parish Register of Tettenhall records her burial on the 1st April 1769, four months only before the

¹ Codsall Register.

² She has raised a monument to herself by the memorial she put up in Lichfield Cathedral to Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. Mrs. Jameson, in her "Romance of Biography," writing of this monument says:—

"In Lichfield Cathedral stands the only memorial ever raised to Lady Mary. It is a cenotaph, with Beauty weeping over the loss of her preserver, and an inscription of which the following words form the conclusion, 'To perpetuate the memory of such benevolence, and to express her gratitude for the benefit she herself received from this alleviating art, this monument is erected by Henrietta Inge, relict of Theodore William Inge, and daughter of Sir John Wrottesley, Bart., in 1789.' One would like to have known the woman who raised this monument."

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, who introduced inoculation into England, as a remedy for smallpox, was the aunt and probably the godmother of Lady Mary Wrottesley, the wife of Sir Richard Wrottesley, and was therefore connected with Henrietta Inge. It is not unlikely that the numerous deaths in the Wrottesley family of this date proceeded from smallpox, for the ravages of the disease at this period were quite terrific.

Mrs. Jameson says, in the work above mentioned, that "when Lord Petre, who is consecrated to fame in the Rape of the Lock, as the ravisher of Arabella Fermour's hair, died of the smallpox at the age of three and twenty, just after his marriage with a young and beautiful heiress, his death caused a general sympathy, and added to the dread and horror inspired by this terrible disease, eighteen persons of his family having died of it within twenty-seven years." This took place in 1711.

³ Codsall Register.

⁴ Wrottesley Muniments.

⁵ Tettenhall Register.

death of her only surviving son Sir Richard. Her will, which was dated 16th April 1762, mentions "my son Sir Richard Wrottesley and his son John," "my granddaughter Mary Wrottesley," "my daughter Wilkes," "my daughter Stuart," "my daughter Inge," "my daughter Mary," and "my grandson William Inge."¹

SIR RICHARD WROTTESELEY, THE SEVENTH BARONET, 1732-69.

Sir Richard, who now succeeded to the Baronetcy, was born on the 12th of April 1721,² and was the fifth and only surviving son of the fourth Baronet. The mortality in the family had been so great, that at the date of his marriage in 1739, he was the only male representative of it left alive.

He matriculated at St. John's College, Oxford, on the 31st of August 1739, aged eighteen,³ and in the same year he married Lady Mary, the second daughter of John, first Earl Gower, by his first wife, Lady Evelyn Pierrepont, the daughter of the Duke of Kingston.⁴ This marriage brought him into close connection with all the great Whig houses which had been paramount in England ever since the accession of the Hanoverian line. The eldest daughter of Earl Gower was married to John, the fourth Duke of Bedford, who played a prominent part in the political history of this period, and was first cousin to William, the fourth Duke of Devonshire, whose mother was a Russell. Earl Gower himself was a man of some political eminence. He had been appointed Lord Privy Seal in 1742, and had twice acted as one of the members of the Regency, during the absence of George II on the Continent. He was created an Earl in 1746 and died on 25th December 1754.

Dr. Wilkes, the antiquary, describing Wrottesley about 1739, writes :—

"Sir Richard, the present owner of the estate is a minor, but a young gentleman of fine parts who 'tis hoped may live to be an ornament to his family and countrey (*sic*). He is the seventh of the family who has enjoyed the Honour in about 12 years, his father and two elder brothers all dying in a short space of time."⁵

In 1742, when Sir Richard came of age, a postnuptial

¹ Copy of will formerly at Wrottesley. The Annual Register states she died on the 22nd of March 1769.

² Codsall Register.

³ Foster's Alumni Oxonienses.

⁴ Wrottesley Muniments and Trentham Register. The marriage took place at Trentham on the 6th of October 1739.

⁵ Dr. Wilkes' MSS., William Salt Library, Stafford.

settlement was made of the Wrottesley estate, and Lord Gower settled £10,000 upon his daughter.¹ In the reign of George II this sum would have been considered a large fortune for a daughter.

In 1747, through the interest of his brother-in-law, the Duke of Bedford, Sir Richard was elected M.P. for Tavistock, and was re-elected in June 1749, after his appointment as one of the Principal Clerks in the Board of Green Cloth.² In 1754, for some reason which has never been explained, Sir Richard threw up his seat in Parliament and his post in the Royal Household and entered into Holy Orders.

Up to this point this history has been based entirely upon documentary evidence, but we have now reached a period when oral traditions may be produced in aid of it; and I propose to introduce into it some stories of Sir Richard told to me by his grandson, the late Rev. Charles Wrottesley, the Rector of Knoyle. According to my informant, Sir Richard was a hot-headed youth, who from inability to control his temper, became involved in quarrels which in an age of duelling, led to more than one personal encounter. One of these was a duel *à outrance* fought with swords in a sawpit, in which, curious to relate, neither party was injured. After Sir Richard had entered the Church and been appointed one of the Royal Chaplains, the story of this duel reached the ears of his royal master, and the fact of one of his Chaplains having been engaged in such an affair so tickled the royal fancy, that it was made a constant subject of badinage on the part of the King, in reply to which Sir Richard could only plead that "After all, sir, nobody was hurt." He became a Royal Chaplain in 1763. Another story told of him is connected with the rising of "45." When the Pretender reached Derby the excitement in the Midland Counties was intense, and Sir Richard as a staunch Whig and Hanoverian, armed his servants and tenantry, and at the head of a body of Yeomanry set out to join his father-in-law, Lord Gower, who was raising forces in the north of the county. They had not gone far, however, before they were recalled, news having been received of the retreat of Prince Charles Edward's army. His Jacobite and High Tory neighbours, the Giffards and Astleys, on hearing of this, invented a story that Sir Richard and his "army" had never gone further than the old Bull Inn, which was the first public-house on the road and less than a mile from Wrottesley, where according to their account, all Sir Richard's levies had stopped to

¹ Wrottesley Muniments.

² Wotton's Baronetage and Gentleman's Magazine. The office is one in the Royal Household in the Lord Steward's Department. Sir Richard was appointed vice Sir Thomas Wynne, deceased.

"liquor up" and could not be prevailed upon to go any further.¹

Sir Richard appears to have been a favourite at Court, for at the commencement of the new reign his eldest son John was appointed one of the King's Pages, and on the formation of the household of the Queen, at the time of the marriage of the King with the Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, his eldest daughter Mary was appointed one of the Maids of Honour. In April 1765 he was promoted to the Deanery of Worcester, at that date a very valuable ecclesiastical benefice. On taking Orders he obtained the degree of M.A. at St. John's, College, Cambridge, and on his promotion to the Deanery he took the degree of LL.D.²

The letters of George Selwyn and his contemporaries occasionally mention members of the family at this date. One from George Williams,³ dated from Crome, 19th of October 1764, says:—

"I met the Wrottesleys in the middle of the town, and let me tell you a Maid of Honor's face at Worcester is no very common spectacle. I have seen you in spirits at a London face, though it was that of the ordinary at Newgate."

This is in allusion to George Selwyn's well known fondness for attending public executions.

On the 28th of October 1765, he writes again to George Selwyn:—

"The dinner at Sir Richard Wrottesley's was not a bad one; the jumble between leather and prunella would have entertained you. The Maid of Honor is at Blenheim, and I suppose *e secretis* in this paper controversy and as she is retained for the house of Trentham she breathes not peace; you would have pitied Lady Mary, sick, and as like Taaffe as it is possible, though at the same time well bred, and in every action discovering a superiority to the savages she was encompassed with. The Bishop was as usual all sketch and outline in his discourse, said you had lost a great opportunity of not appearing with your sword-bearer before H.R.H.," etc.

The controversy mentioned in this letter is doubtless the attempt of the King to get rid of the Grenville adminis-

¹ Lord Gower raised a regiment of 1,000 men on this occasion, and was made an Earl in the following year. He had been originally a Jacobite, but had changed his political convictions and had accepted the office of Lord Privy Seal in 1742. Dr. Johnson, who was a High Tory, looked upon him as a turncoat, and proposed to define the word "Renegade" in the first edition of his Dictionary as "Lord Gower," but his printer refused his consent, and Dr. Johnson said afterwards, "He was wiser than I." (Lord Ronald Gower's "Reminiscences.")

² Romilly's "Cantabrigienses Graduati."

³ He is better known as "Gilly Williams," and as the friend of Horace Walpole. He was Receiver-General of Excise, and one of George Selwyn's most intimate associates.

tration. He had dismissed them, it is supposed on the advice of his mother, but not being able to form another administration, he had to take them back.

Sir Richard held his Deanery for four years only, for he died 20th July 1769.¹ At the date of his death he was only forty-eight years of age, and if he had lived longer, with his favour at Court and his political connections, he would probably have risen to higher ecclesiastical preferment.

His will was dated in 1764 and probate of it was granted in 1769. It is curious that he makes no mention in it of his wife. His daughter Mary was made sole executrix, and the guardianship of his daughter Harriet, who was under age, was left to the Duke of Bedford and Earl Gower.²

Mary Wrottesley died intestate on the 17th of December 1769, before the estate had been administered. Letters of administration were therefore granted "to Dame Mary Wrottesley, widow, the lawful mother of the Hon^{ble} Mary Wrottesley, spinster, deceased."³

Sir Richard left an only son John, who succeeded him, and five daughters. Of these the eldest, Mary, was born on the 22nd of November 1740,⁴ and was appointed Maid of Honour to Queen Charlotte in 1761. She is mentioned upon more than one occasion in the letters of Lady Sarah Lennox. On the 24th December 1762, Lady Sarah writes to her friend Lady Susan Fox Strangways:—

"Miss Wriothesley (*sic*) is so pert upon the Duke and Duchess of M., Lady Bolingbroke being favorite to the Queen, and upon Mr. Calcraft intending to marry her (which is my sister's intelligence) that her head is turned, and she is a thorough fine lady as ever I saw."⁵

The allusion here must be to the marriage of Mary Wrottesley's cousin, Lady Caroline Russell, to the Duke of Marlborough, which took place in August of this year. Lady Bolingbroke was the sister of the Duke and one of the Ladies of the Bedchamber.

In May 1765 there was a rupture between the King and the Grenville and Bedford party. On the 13th June of that year Lady Sarah writes to Lord Holland:—

¹ Gentleman's Magazine. He was buried at Tettenhall on the 31st of July 1769 (Tettenhall Register).

² The guardianship was released by deed to Dame Mary Wrottesley, her mother, in 1770 (Wrottesley Muniments). There is no evidence of any quarrel between Sir Richard and Lady Mary. The latter was in bad health and the will was drawn up apparently under the supposition that the testator would survive his wife, but as always happens, when a speculation is made on the future, the unexpected occurred, and Lady Mary survived both her husband and her daughter.

³ Annual Register and Wrottesley Muniments.

⁴ Codsall Register.

⁵ Letters of Lady Sarah Lennox, vol. i (1901). Lady Sarah always uses the word "pert" in the sense of "proud." Thus she speaks of a lady being pert at the birth of a son and heir.

"I came to town yesterday, and find all the Bedfords most prodigious glumpy, particularly Lord Gower. The King is still sulky and I find everybody expects a change immediately."

Ten days later she writes again to him:—

"It is impossible to know any news, for Miss Wriothesley, who has just been, says that the King's manner to all her friends is exactly the same that it has been for this fortnight past, and as nobody can know what passed between the King and Mr. Pitt either Wednesday or to-day, the fidget they are in is not smoke, you may imagine (*sic*)."

As Pitt refused to take office, not wishing to supplant Grenville, who was his brother-in-law, the King was obliged to take his old Ministers back.

Some witty verses, written by Lord Delawarr on resigning his office as Vice-Chamberlain to Queen Charlotte on his promotion in the army in 1766, gives us a glimpse of the dull and decorous Court of Queen Charlotte. They were addressed as a farewell to the Maids of Honor:—

Ye maids who Britain's Court bedeck,
Miss Wrottesley, Beauclerk, Tryon, Keck,
Miss Meadows and Boscawen,
A dismal tale I have to tell,
This is to bid you all farewell—
Farewell, for I am going.

No longer shall we laugh and chat
In the outer room, on this and that
Until the Queen shall call.
Our gracious King has called me now,
Nay, holds a Stick¹ up too I vow,
And so God bless you all.

No longer shall I now be seen
Handing along our matchless Queen,
So generous, good and kind;
While one by one each smiling lass
First drops a curtesy as we pass,
Then trips along behind.

Farewell, my good Lord Harecourt too,
What can alas, your Lordship do,
Alone among the maids.
You must soon assistance ask,
You'll have a very arduous task
Unless you call for aid.

Great is the charge you have in care!
But yet my pretty maidens fair,
His situation's nice.
As Chamberlain we shall expect
That he sole guardian will protect
Six maids without a *Vice*.

¹ The silver stick.

It would appear by this that "the six maids without a vice" had more gracious manners than the maids of Queen Elizabeth, who were described by Cecil, as "virtuous as small beer, and as sour."

The Carlisle Correspondence mentions the engagement of Mary Wrottesley to Admiral Keppel, the famous Naval Commander, afterwards Lord Keppel. This was in 1768, but her health gave way, and she died in 1769, aged twenty-nine.¹ Lord Keppel died unmarried in 1782.

At Wrottesley there is an excellent portrait of her taken after she became Maid of Honor, by Sir Joshua Reynolds.² Without being what is called a beauty, she has a countenance which is decidedly prepossessing.

Frances, the second daughter, was born in 1743¹ and occurs in the letters of Lady Sarah Lennox as "Fanny Wriotsley."³ She married in 1769, as his second wife, Captain afterwards Admiral Hugh Pigot, brother of the unfortunate Lord Pigot, the Governor of Madras, and died in 1811, leaving two daughters.⁴

Elizabeth, the third daughter, was born 21st October 1745,¹ and was married on the 24th June 1769 to Augustus Henry, the third Duke of Grafton. The Duke at this date was First Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister. He had been previously married to a daughter of Lord Ravensworth, but they had been separated in 1765, and the marriage was dissolved by Act of Parliament in March 1769. In his autobiography the Duke writes:—

"On the 24th June 1769 I married Elizabeth, the third daughter of Sir Richard and Lady Mary Wrottesley whose merit as a wife, tenderness and affection as mother of a numerous family and exemplary conduct thro' life, need not be related to you."⁵

The Duke resigned the Treasury in January 1770, but took office again as Lord Privy Seal in the following year in Lord North's administration. He is, however, best known to historians through the attacks upon him in the Letters of Junius. One of these addressed to the Duke and dated the 30th May 1769, thus apostrophises his forthcoming marriage:—

"Marriage is the point on which every rake is stationary at last, and truly my Lord you may well be weary of the circuit you have taken, for you have now fairly travelled through every

¹ Tottenhall Register.

² Sir Joshua's receipt for the money paid for this portrait was formerly at Wrottesley.

³ Lady Sarah plays havoc with the spelling of her proper names. Tollemache, for instance, in her hands becomes Tollmuch.

⁴ Gentleman's Magazine and Burke's Peerage and Baronetage, under Pigot.

⁵ Autobiography of Augustus Henry, third Duke of Grafton, printed 1898. It is addressed to his eldest son, Lord Euston.

Sign of the political Zodiac, from the Scorpion in which you stung Lord Chatham to the hopes of a Virgin in the House of Bloomsbury. In a political point of view, this union is not imprudent, the favor of princes is a perishable commodity. You have now a strength sufficient to command the closet," etc.

The allusion in the last two sentences, of course, is to the connection of Elizabeth with the house of Russell. Gertrude, the popular Duchess of Bedford, was her aunt, and her marriage took place from Woburn Abbey.¹

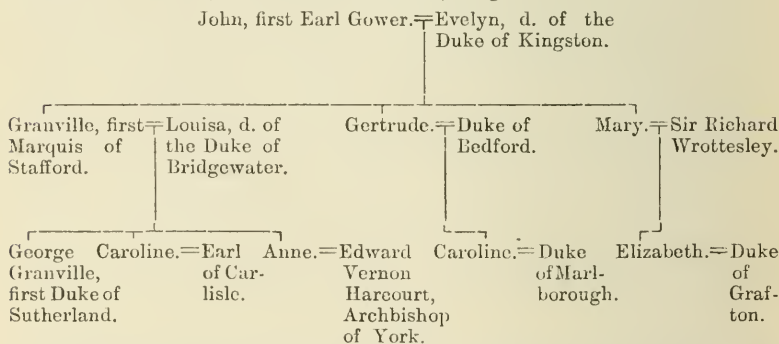
Five months after the marriage, the Dowager Countess Gower writes to Mrs. Delany:—

"The Duchess of Grafton I'm told is not in the least degree intoxicated with her preferment, and I believe it, for the Duchess of Bedford says, 'She wants dignity,' which implies she wants insolence."²

At the date of the marriage the Duke was thirty-four years of age and Elizabeth was ten years younger. They had several children, most of whom eventually married, and their descendants must now be very numerous. For these, however, I must refer the reader to Burke's Peerage.³

The Duke died in March 1811. His wife survived him for eleven years, dying on the 25th May 1822, in her seventy-seventh year. In her latter days she formed an

¹ To understand how the Duke's marriage with Elizabeth Wrottesley could be said to improve his political position, the following pedigree of the descendants of John, the first Earl Gower, is given:—



Granville, the first Marquis of Stafford, by his second wife, the daughter of the Earl of Galloway, had issue:—Granville, the first Earl Granville; Georgiana, married to the Earl of St. Germans; Charlotte, married to the Duke of Beaufort; and Susan, married to the Earl of Harrowby; all of these, as well as Caroline, the Duchess of Marlborough, would be first cousins of Elizabeth Wrottesley, the Duchess of Grafton.

² The Life and Correspondence of Mrs. Delany, 1862.

³ The present Duchess of Sutherland, Lord Rosslyn and Evelyn, the Countess of Warwick, all descend from the marriage of Elizabeth Wrottesley with the Duke of Grafton.

interesting link with the past, for my father frequently visited her in her house in London, and she had opened a Court Ball in 1771, by dancing a minuet with the Duke of Gloucester.¹

Dorothy, the fourth daughter of Sir Richard Wrottesley, was born on the 15th of October 1747, and married in 1780 Christian, Baron von Kutzleben, Minister to the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel.² Horace Walpole alludes to this marriage more than once in his letters to the Countess of Ossory. On the 14th July 1779 he writes :—

“I met Miss Wrottesley this evening at my neice (*sic*) Cholmondeley's and she told me Mr. Dunning had found a flaw in the settlements and that they must be drawn again.”

On the 23rd September 1780 he writes again :—

“Miss Wrottesley's £5,000 will purchase a princely Turnippery, but I doubt even that or a Baron will indemnify her for the capital she quits, and yet £5,000 will soon, I believe, buy a principality in England.”

Horace Walpole was very desponding at this date over the political outlook; England being at war with America and half of Europe.

The Baron of Kutzleben had issue by Dorothy Wrottesley, a son William, who entered the military service of the East India Company, became Lieut.-Colonel of the 44th Regiment of Madras Infantry, and died of fever in India in 1836. He was twice married. By his first wife Susan, he had a son, who died young, and two daughters, the eldest of whom, Gertrude, married a Mr. Collins, by whom she had several children. She died in 1844.³ The second daughter, Emma, married in 1836 Ralph William Leycester, of the 19th Regiment of the Madras Infantry. Captain Leycester was assassinated at Vizaragatam in September 1859. He left no issue and his widow died in England in 1872.

By his second wife Elizabeth, the Baron had three daughters, Elizabeth, married to Mr. Wallhouse, of the Indian Civil Service; Louisa, who died young; and Matilda Catherine Alicia, who married in 1855, John Robert Lloyd Curtis, of the 8th Regiment Madras Army. Lieut.-Colonel Lloyd Curtis was killed by a fall from his horse at Singapore, on the 4th March 1869. By his wife Matilda Catherine Alicia, he had two daughters

¹ Annual Register.

² Gentleman's Magazine.

³ Gertrude Philippine de Kutzleben had a pension of £130 on the Civil List, granted to her in 1801. Her trustees were Earl Gower and Sir Archibald McDonald.

and one son. Of these children the only survivor is Elizabeth Harriet Kutzleben Curtis, now living in London.¹

Harriet, the fifth daughter of Sir Richard Wrottesley, was born on the 1st January 1754, and, like her sister Mary, became Maid of Honor to Queen Charlotte. She married in 1779, Colonel, afterwards General, William Gardiner, brother of Luke, Viscount Mountjoy² and died on the 8th December 1824.³ Her daughter, Gertrude Florinda, married in 1803, the Hon. Charles Tollemache, by whom she had, with other issue, Maria, Marchioness of Ailesbury,⁴ one of the best known and most popular of the "grandes dames" of the Court of Queen Victoria.

At Wrottesley there is an excellent portrait of Sir Richard, painted by Gainsborough; in this he is represented in clerical costume and powder. At Enville there is another portrait of him, painted when he was a young man, in the velvet frock coat and peruke of the reign of George II.

SIR JOHN WROTTESELEY, THE EIGHTH BARONET, A.D. 1769
TO 1787.

John, the eighth Baronet, was born at Wrottesley on the 22nd of December 1744,⁵ and succeeded his father Richard in 1769. As he was an only son, the representation of the family in the male line was reduced again to a single member. As a youth he had served as Page of Honour to the King, and as usual in such circumstances, on reaching the age of sixteen years, obtained a commission in the Army. Shortly after the formation of the household of Edward Augustus the Duke of York, a younger brother of the King, he was appointed his Equerry, and in the Edgeworth Memoirs there is an amusing description of some private theatricals at Sir Francis Delaval's house, in which the Duke and his Equerry played the leading parts in Rowe's tragedy of "The Fair Penitent," the Duke playing Lothario the Seducer, and John Wrottesley the part of Altamont. This dreary play, which is in blank verse, would have been forgotten long ago, if it had not been for the cant phrase of "the gay Lothario" which is taken from it. The parts of Calista and Lavinia were played by Lady Stanhope and Lady Mexborough, and the Stage Manager was the famous

¹ *Ex inf.*, Mrs. Matilda Catherine Alicia Curtis, 1902, and a brass in Tettenhall Church.

² Gentleman's Magazine.

³ Annual Register.

⁴ Burke's Peerage, under Dysart.

⁵ Codsall Register.

Macklin.¹ In 1767 he accompanied the Duke in his foreign tour, and was present at his death at the Palace of Monaco on the 17th of September in the same year.

The London Gazette of the 29th September states :—

“On Sunday last Captain Wrottesley arrived from Monaco with the melancholy account that H.R.H. Edward Augustus Duke of York and Albany died at that place on the 17th instant about 11 a.m. of a malignant fever.”

A letter in the correspondence of George Selwyn and his contemporaries gives additional particulars of the Duke's illness and death, derived no doubt from his Equerry; it says :—

“H.R.H. ordered that Captain Wrottesley should bring the news to England, and in what method it should be disclosed. The Captain was first to wait on M. Le Grand of Spring Gardens and with him to go to Leicester House, and then to Gloucester House, and having communicated the event to the Duke his brother, to proceed to their Majesties, submitting it to the King and Queen in what manner and by whom it should be imparted to his royal parent.”²

In the same correspondence it is stated that :—

“The Duke was taken ill immediately on his arrival at Monaco, having travelled from Toulon. H.R.H. had danced rather too much at the Chateau of a person of fashion, and set off for Toulon, three or four leagues distant, in a very strong perspiration. The Gentlemen of the train, Colonels Morrison and St. John and Captain Wrottesley, earnestly represented to H.R.H. the necessity of his remaining where he was.”

This was on the 29th of August. With our present knowledge of zymotic diseases, it is not necessary to look for causes of the Duke's illness. He evidently died of typhoid fever, which, until recent years, was more or less endemic in the South of Europe. Horace Walpole states that “he died with a heroism becoming a great Prince. Before he died he wrote a penitential letter to the King (though in truth he had no faults but what his youth made very pardonable), and tenderly recommended his servants to him.”³

On his death bed, after giving instructions to his Equerry as to the best method of imparting the news to his mother

¹ The Memoirs of R. L. Edgeworth. A review of these memoirs, giving an account of these theatricals, will be found in the Annual Register for 1820.

² “George Selwyn and his Contemporaries,” by Jesse, 1843. Vol. 2, p. 197. It is not easy to understand these instructions, as Leicester House was the residence of the Princess of Wales, the mother of the Duke.

³ Horace Walpole's Memoirs, edited by Sir Denis le Marchant, Bart. (1845).

and the King, the poor Duke added with a faint smile, "And then you will go and marry Fanny Courtenay."¹

The Duke's remains were brought to England, and the funeral took place in Westminster Abbey on the following 3rd of November.

At the General Election of 1768, John Wrottesley was returned as Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme, no doubt by the Gower interest, for Lord Gower at this date was a member of the Government and Lord President of the Council in the administration of the Duke of Grafton. On the following 5th of July, he took the Chiltern Hundreds, and was elected member for the county in place of George Harry Grey his cousin, who had succeeded to the Earldom of Stamford. The other member was Sir William Bagot, who had represented the county since the year 1754. This general election was signalised by the return of Wilkes for Middlesex, and the tumults and riots which arose from it.

His father died in the following year, and on the 7th of June 1770,² Sir John married Frances the second daughter of William Viscount Courtenay, of Powderham Castle, by his wife Frances, daughter of Heneage Earl of Aylesford. His eldest son John was born in the following year, and another son Henry in 1773. At the time of her marriage Frances was one of the Maids of Honour to Queen Charlotte.

Owing to his post in the Royal Household and subsequent entry into the Army Sir John had never matriculated at an University, but on the 8th of July 1773, Oxford conferred upon him the Honorary Degree of D.C.L.

At the General Election of 1774, he was again returned as a member for the county, the other member being Sir William Bagot. It was in this year that the troubles arose in America, and the tea chests were thrown into the harbour at Boston. The battle of Bunker's Hill was fought on the 17th June 1775, and the Guards were ordered to America in the following year.

At this date Sir John Wrottesley was Captain and Lt.-Colonel in the first Battalion of the Guards. They sailed from Spithead on the 12th of May, and arrived off Staten Island on the 12th of August and took part in all the operations under Sir William Howe in 1776, which led up to the capture of New York and Rhode Island. Full descriptions of all these actions were sent home by Sir John to his wife. New York

¹ *Ex. inf.*, the Rev. Charles Wrottesley. Frances Courtenay was one of the Maids of Honour, and the Duke had become aware of his Equerry's attachment to her.

² Annual Register, 1770, and Burke's Peerage.

was captured on the 15th of September and the Battle of Whiteplains was fought on the 28th of October. During the winter of 1776-7 the Guards remained at New York.

By the scheme of operations which had been arranged in London for the following year, Sir William Howe was to have co-operated with General Burgoyne by an advance to the North up the Hudson River, but the orders to this effect never reached him,¹ and Sir William embarked his army in July 1777 and went southwards to the Delaware River in order to take possession of Philadelphia. The Battle of Brandywine was fought on the 11th September, and Howe occupied Philadelphia on the 26th. The Guards formed part of the forces engaged in these operations.

In the following year (1778) negotiations were opened with the Americans with a view to an accommodation, and the Earl of Carlisle, who had married Lady Caroline Leveson-Gower, Sir John's first cousin, was one of a Commission sent out from England to offer terms to Congress. At this date, however, France had declared war with Great Britain, and the Americans would listen to no terms which did not recognize their independence.

Sir William Howe had been successful in all his operations up to this date, but an outcry had been raised against him in England that he had not followed up his advantages against the enemy with sufficient vigour, and the ministry at home wrote to him in a tone which shewed plainly that they had lost all confidence in him. Under these circumstances, he asked to be relieved, and the command of the forces in America fell to Sir Henry Clinton, who was in many respects inferior in ability to Howe. In fact, anyone who has seen the condition of an English army after a disembarkation from a sea voyage, without any means of transport for its ammunition, sick, or provisions, will be surprised at the extent and success of the operations which had been undertaken by Howe. The troops under his command, who were aware of his difficulties, were indignant at the slight placed upon their General, and a triumphal ovation was accorded to him upon his departure. This was naturally distasteful to members and supporters of the Government, and Lord Carlisle gives the following description of it in a letter to his wife, dated from on board the "Trident," River Delaware, 21st June 1778:—

"I forgot to mention the (I don't know what to call it) that was given to Sir W. Howe. I fear it was a very foolish business, though I believe it owed its birth to our relative Sir John

¹ "Life of General Burgoyne," by Fonblanque.

Wrotsley. He gave me a long description of it, but I understand there is one sent to England which is to appear in the papers, which will save me the trouble of endeavoring to recollect the particulars. I only know there were triumphal arches, and that General Washington was within 24 miles of them, and that Lord Howe saluted Sir William Howe, and Sir William Howe saluted Lord Howe, and that it cost £4,000.”¹

An account of this Fête was sent home by Major André in a letter from Philadelphia dated 23 May 1778, but it does not appear to have been published before it was printed in the *Lady's Magazine* of August 1792. Major André calls it a “*Mischianza*” or Variety of Entertainments, and his account of it seems to justify Lord Carlisle's opinion of it. It took place on the 18th of May, and Sir William Howe embarked for England on the 24th. The managers were Sir John Wrottesley, Colonel O'Hara, Major Gardiner, and Major Montresor, the Chief Engineer. Part of the entertainment consisted of a Tournament, in which six Knights of the “*Blended Rose*” fought six Knights of the “*Burning Mountain*.” After which there was a grand procession, the whole concluding with a ball and fireworks. André in this letter speaks of the “universal regret and disappointment which the Army felt on the approaching departure of Sir William.”²

Lady Mary Wrottesley, the mother of Sir John died on the 30th of April of this year,³ and the latter obtained leave to return to England. On the 10th of July Lord Carlisle writes from New York :—

“Sir John Wrotsley goes home in the packet that sailed yesterday, his situation is enviable, and except he should be taken by the Americans and brought back to Boston, he ought to be the happiest man in the world.”

Sir John was one of the most popular men in the county, and after the elevation of Sir William Bagot to the Peerage was returned at the head of the poll in every election in which he took a part. This popularity was in a great measure owing to the openness and candour of his disposition, but he had the defects of his qualities, and they were accompanied by a frankness of speech which often made him enemies, and which must have been extremely inconvenient at this juncture to Lord Carlisle. On the 21st of July the latter writes :—

¹ Carlisle Correspondence, printed by the Historical MSS. Commission.

² “*American Historical and Literary Curiosities*,” by John Jay Smith and J. F. Watson. Putnam, New York, 1861.

³ Annual Register. She was buried at Tettenhall on the 9th May 1778 (*Tettenhall Register*). “*Lloyd's Evening Post*,” 1st to 4th May 1778, has “30th April. The Honble. Mrs. Wrottesley in Charles Street, Berkeley Square, mother to the Duchess of Grafton and also to the present Miss Wrottesley, one of the Maids of Honour to the Queen.”

"Sir J. Wrotsley sailed in the 'Grantham' Packet about three days ago, and by this time is perhaps in the hands of the enemy. If he was taken by the Turks, instead of the Americans or French, it would do him no harm, for the vulgar notion is, that they cut out the tongue of those they make their prisoners, and the operation in every sense would be lucky for our relation."

It was plain from Sir John's letters home at this date, that he considered the further prosecution of the war to be hopeless; he points out in them that we only held the country within the line of our outposts, that the actual provisioning of our troops depended on the fleet, and that if we lost the command of the sea for even a limited period, the troops would starve or have to surrender. In fact he anticipated exactly what befell Lord Cornwallis in 1781, but it may easily be conceived how inconvenient the utterance of such sentiments would be to the members of the Commission who were negotiating at this time with the Americans.

Sir John Wrottesley's commission as Captain and Lieut.-Colonel of the First Regiment of Foot Guards was dated the 10th November 1770. He became Third-Major on the 23rd April 1779, with the rank of full Colonel in the Army, Second-Major in 1781, and First-Major on the 18th March 1782, when he came into the command of the First Battalion. On the 20th November 1782, he was gazetted Major-General in the Army, but according to the custom of the day he still remained in command of the First Regiment of Foot Guards, and so continued till the year 1785 when he was appointed Colonel of the 45th Foot.

On his return to England, after having served in command of a battalion of Guards at the seat of war, Sir John was considered an authority on American matters, and spoke frequently in the House. In November 1778, in the debate on the Address, he stated:—

"He could not give his approbation to further war with America, all that could be done, had been done. If 50,000 Russians were sent, they could do nothing. He thought that New York, Rode Island and Halifax should be garrisoned, and the rest of the Army brought away."

He concluded his speech by reprobating the terms offered to the Americans by the Commissioners.

On Dunning's motion in 1780 against the influence of the Crown, which was carried against the Government by a majority of 18, Sir John voted with the ayes. After this Parliament was dissolved, and Sir John was returned for the County, again at the head of the poll.

Nevertheless, in 1781, after news had been received of the surrender of Cornwallis, he spoke against Sir James Lowther's

motion for putting an end to the American war. In his speech he said that he had come to the House with the intention of supporting it, but after what had fallen from Lord North he would vote against it. It was thrown out by a majority of 41.

During the recess, however, fresh disasters occurred. England had lost the command of the seas, Minorca had fallen, and all the West Indian Islands had been taken by the French, with the exception of Jamaica, Barbadoes and Antigua. Shortly after the meeting of Parliament in 1782 the Government majority had become so much reduced that Lord North resigned at the end of March.

The division which upset the Government took place on the 15th of March, on a motion by Sir John Rous, for a change of Ministry. On the 16th of March Selwyn writes to Lord Carlisle, "Gilbert voted with us. Sir John Wrottesley against us. Lord Trentham went away."

During the existence of the Coalition Ministry he was in opposition, but this administration was dismissed by the King on the 18th of December 1783, and a new Government was formed by William Pitt on the following day, which was joined by Earl Gower.

At the General Election of 1784 Sir John was returned for the third time as member for the County at the head of the poll; his colleague on this occasion was Lord Lewisham. He had been returned as a supporter of the Government, but his allegiance was sorely tried when Pitt proposed a tax upon coal in his first financial statement. In a speech which Sir John made on this occasion he professed himself a friend to ministers, but earnestly exhorted the Chancellor of the Exchequer (William Pitt) to abandon the intended tax on coal, which would go near to ruin the manufacturers of Staffordshire.¹ In the following week Pitt announced his intention of renouncing the tax and substituting another for it. Sir John then rose—

"And returned his thanks to the Rt. Honble. Gentleman for what he had just said and acknowledged the very handsome manner in which he had conducted the business. He added that he had received several letters from his constituents full of alarm, as soon as they had heard of the proposed tax and he had not the slightest doubt but that the alarm would have spread throughout the Kingdom if the Rt. Honble. Gentleman had persisted in his intention."²

In the same sitting of Parliament Sir John moved that the fines levied in Staffordshire for non-compliance with the

¹ Parliamentary History.

² *Ibid.*

Militia Act should be applied towards building a new County Gaol. This was vehemently opposed, on the ground that it would be a reward instead of a punishment to the County, and after a somewhat acrimonious discussion, Pitt interposed and moved that in order to remove any doubt about the proper application of the money, a bill should be brought in to compel the receivers of the fines to pay them into the Treasury. This was approved, and Mr. Pitt and Sir John Wrottesley were ordered to prepare a bill for this purpose and to bring it up.¹

From this point I have nothing further to relate respecting him. He died on the 23rd April 1787 at the early age of 43, and was buried at Tettenhall on the 4th of May following.²

There is a picture of him at Wrottesley taken as a young man in the uniform of the Foot Guards. During his service in America he had been on terms of intimacy with the ill-fated Major André, who was hanged as a spy by General Washington in 1780. André was Deputy Adjutant-General of the English Forces under Sir William Howe, and an accomplished draughtsman and artist. Amongst his sketches which have been published is a blank profile cutting of Sir John Wrottesley, taken at Philadelphia in 1778.³

By his wife Frances Courtenay, who survived him, Sir John had five sons and three daughters. Of these—

John, the eldest, succeeded him as ninth Baronet.

Henry, the second son, was born at Wrottesley on the 25th October 1772,⁴ and was King's Scholar at Westminster, and elected to Christ Church, Oxford, on the 22nd of June 1791. He obtained the degree of B.A. in 1795 and M.A. in 1798. He was appointed Cursitor in Chancery in 1795, was called to the Bar in 1798, and made a Commissioner of Bankruptcy in 1799. In 1810, probably through the Gower interest, he was elected M.P. for Brackley, and represented that borough continuously until his death on the 17th of February 1825.⁵

He was an easy and fluent speaker, and as he confined himself to speaking only on questions with which he was well acquainted, such as legal matters,

¹ Parliamentary History.

² Wottons's Baronetage and Tettenhall Registers. The Annual Register states he died on the 2nd of April, but this must be a misprint. A new writ for Staffordshire was issued in the same month and the vacant seat was filled by George, Earl Gower, the eldest son of the Marquis of Stafford.

³ "American Historical and Literary Curiosities," by John Jay Smith and John F. Watson. New York, 1861. These profiles were cut by Major André for Miss Rebecca Redman at Philadelphia in 1778.

⁴ Tettenhall Register.

⁵ Foster's Alumni Oxonienses.

charitable trusts and such like, he was listened to with attention, and his speeches have been reported in Hansard.

At the commencement of his parliamentary career he was a decided Liberal. In 1812 he spoke against the bill brought in by the Perceval ministry to inflict the death penalty on persons convicted of destroying stocking and lace frames; the minority which voted with him consisted of 17 only, but it contained the names of Romilly, the two Barings, Whitbread and Banks.

He spoke also strongly in favour of the reform of prisons, and for Sir Robert Peel's motion for a Committee on the employment of children in manufactories. He also spoke in favour of Brougham's motion for a Committee on the education of the lower classes.

After the session of 1816 he appears to have deserted his party and supported all the measures of Addington's ministry. In February 1817 he spoke in favour of the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, which was proposed by the Government for the suppression of the destruction of mills and machinery by an organised conspiracy, and in 1821 he voted against Lord John Russell's motion for a reform of Parliament. He was a very popular member of society, and the friend and associate of the wits and dandies of the day. He is mentioned on more than one occasion in the Letters of George Selwyn. He died unmarried on the 17th of February 1825, aged 53.¹

Hugh, the third son, was a Lieut.-Colonel in the Bengal Establishment of the East Indian Company. He was born at Wrottesley on the 23rd July 1782,² and married, in 1811, Miss Emma Matthews, by whom he had a son Hugh, who died unmarried in India, and a daughter, Maria Catherine Charlotte, who married Robert Faithfull Fanshawe, the fifth son of the Rev. Charles Fanshawe of Dengey, Hall, Essex.³ Robert Fanshawe had issue a son, Hugh Arnold Wrottesley Fanshawe, who entered the East Indian Telegraph Service, and is now living.

Charles, the fourth son, was born at Wrottesley on the 8th of July 1783.⁴ He matriculated at Christ Church on the 23rd April 1801, and obtained the degree of B.A. in 1805 and M.A. in 1808. He was elected Fellow of

¹ Annual Register.

² Tettenhall Register.

³ Burke's Landed Gentry.

⁴ Tettenhall Register.

All Souls in 1808 and Proctor of the University in 1816, and obtained the degree of B.D. in 1817. In 1820 he became Rector of East Knoyle, co. Wilts, and remained there till his death on the 17th of February 1848. He was never married, and as he spent most of his holidays at Wrottesley, it is from him that I have derived the anecdotes of his father and grandfather, which have been introduced into this history.

Edward, the fifth son, was born at Wrottesley on the 19th of October 1785,¹ and entered the Royal Navy. He rose to the rank of Commander, and died at Newfoundland 29 July 1814, whilst in command of H.M.S. "Sabine," to which he had been appointed on the 3rd of October 1812. He married at Gibraltar, Anne, the daughter of the Rev. Thomas Tringham, and had by her an only son, Edward John Wrottesley, who was born at Oaken 9 November 1814, and matriculated at University College, Oxford, on the 23rd of May 1833. He passed out with Honours in 1837, and in the following year was ordained, and from 1841 to 1861 was Perpetual Curate of Tettenhall. He was presented to the Vicarage of Brewood by the Dean of Lichfield in 1863, and became Rural Dean in 1885 and Prebendary in 1895.² He married in 1847 Mariana Eugenia, daughter of John Jeffreys, Esq., of Fynone, and died on the 19th of January 1901, aged 87, leaving a son and a daughter. His mother, Anne, survived her husband for nearly 40 years, dying on the 15th May 1853. His son Francis John Wrottesley, now Vicar of Denstone, Staffordshire, was born in 1848, and married in 1876, Agnes Mabel, daughter of Frederic Freeland, Esq., and has three sons now living, Francis Robert, Lieut. R.N., born 1877, Edward Algernon, born 1879, and Frederic John, born 1880. The daughter, Anna Caroline, married the Rev. Edward Salt, Rector of Standon, Staffordshire, and has issue.

Of the daughters of Sir John Wrottesley, the eldest Fanny was born at Wrottesley 12 Dec. 1773,¹ and died unmarried in 1814.³

Caroline Gertrude was born on the 18th May 1775,⁴ and died in her childhood. She was buried at Tettenhall on the 14th of July 1777.⁴

¹ Tettenhall Register.

² Foster's Alumni Oxonienses.

³ Burke's Peerage and Baronetage.

⁴ Tettenhall Register.

Charlotte, the third daughter, was born on the 7th of October 1779.¹ She was twice married, her first husband, the Rev. John Hellyer, died in 1823, and three years afterwards she married Rear-Admiral Gordon. She left no issue by either marriage.

Louisa, the fourth daughter, was born on the 24th of November 1780,¹ and was appointed Maid of Honour to Queen Charlotte, being the third member of the family who had held the appointment. She died unmarried on the 11th of May 1842, at apartments in St. James Palace, which had been granted to her on her retirement.²

Mary, the fifth daughter, died in childhood on the 8th of January 1788.²

Frances, the mother of Sir John, after the marriage of her son, lived at the dower house of the family at Oaken, and died there on the 24th February 1828. The Annual Register of that year says:—

“At Oaken near Wolverhampton in her 80th year The Hon^{ble} Frances, relict of Major-General Sir John Wrottesley, Bart., M.P. for co. Stafford, eldest sister to the Dowager Countess Rosslyn, and aunt to Viscount Courtenay, the late Lady Charles Somerset, The Countess of Lisbon (Lisburne), Lady George Thynne, The Countess of Mountnorris, the late Lady Robert Somerset etc. She was the third daughter of William first Viscount Courtenay by Lady Frances Finch, daughter of the second Earl of Aylesford. Her Ladyship was a Maid of Honour to Queen Charlotte and was married to Sir John Wrottesley on the 7th of June 1770, who died in 1787, and by whom she had the present Baronet, four other sons, and four daughters.”

SIR JOHN WROTTESLEY, THE NINTH BARONET, AND FIRST BARON WROTTESLEY, A.D. 1792—1841.

John, the ninth Baronet, was born at Wrottesley on the 25th of October 1771.¹ At the date of his father's death he was aged fifteen years and four months. As he wished to follow his father's profession, an Ensign's Commission was purchased for him in the 35th Foot, in the same year in which his father died. Up to this time he had been brought up at Westminster School, but on obtaining a Commission he was sent to a well known military tutor of the day, M. de Pignerolles of Angers. This was the same military school at which the Duke of Wellington received his early training, and there

¹ Tottenhall Register.

² Gentleman's Magazine and Annual Register.

was formerly at Wrottesley a letter from M. de Pignerolles to Sir John Wrottesley, dated 1788, in which the writer mentioned that M. Perigaut, the banker, had informed him from Paris that his (Sir John Wrottesley's) son was to pay 200 louis yearly, as Mr. Wesley did, but this was not enough, "Mr. Wesley had no servant and your son has one."¹ Arthur Wesley's first Commission was dated the 7th March 1787. Sir John Wrottesley's Commission was dated the 24th September in the same year, but there was a difference of nearly two years in their respective ages, for Arthur Wesley (as the name was then written) was born on the 1st May 1769.

On the 25th June 1790, Sir John was transferred as a Lieutenant from the 35th Foot to the 29th—the Worcestershire Regiment of Foot, and joined the regiment at Dover Castle.

War being expected with Spain, and the Admiralty being short of Marines, the regiment was sent to Portsmouth, and on the 23rd July of this year, 194 men were put on board H.M.S. "Egmont," 74 guns, for service afloat.

On the 21st September Lieut. Sir John Wrottesley embarked on board the same ship to relieve Lieut. Saunders, ordered to head-quarters. On the 15th of November the detachment was transferred to the "Royal William," and soon afterwards discharged. The regiment shortly afterwards returned to Dover Castle.

On the 15th February 1791, the regiment took the Windsor duty, Lord Cathcart being in command. In July 1791 they were encamped at Egham Wick, and were inspected by the King. In the summer of 1792 they were encamped on Cæsar's Camp at Aldershot.²

On the 26th of February 1793, Sir John was promoted to a Captaincy, and exchanged into the 16th Light Dragoons.³ In January of this year, the French Convention had declared war against England and Holland, and a British force, commanded by the Duke of York, landed at Ostend in April and joined a body of Dutch troops, which were put under the command of the Duke. The 16th Light Dragoons formed a portion of the Duke's army, and Sir John was present with his regiment at the siege of Valenciennes, and the other operations which resulted in the expulsion of the French from Flanders. In August the Duke, at the head of the British and Hanoverian troops, formed the siege of Dunkirk, but owing to the action of the Austrian army,

¹ The writer was evidently not aware that Sir John had died shortly before this date; the letter was opened by his widow.

² Regimental History of the 29th or Worcestershire Regiment of Infantry.

³ Army List, 1793.

which failed to cover the operations, was forced to raise the siege, leaving all his heavy guns in the possession of the enemy. On the 28th of April 1795, Sir John obtained a majority in the 32nd Foot, but by this time he had taken a distaste for the military profession, owing to the countless blunders committed by the Allies in 1793 and 1794, and he threw up his commission¹ and commenced the life of a country gentleman at home. He had come of age on the 25th of October 1792, and had entered into possession at the same date of considerable property after a minority of six years. On the 23rd June 1795, he married in London by special licence Lady Caroline Bennet, the eldest daughter of Charles, the fourth Earl of Tankerville.² On the 2nd March 1799, he was elected member for the City of Lichfield, *vice* Lord Granville Leveson-Gower, who had accepted the Chiltern Hundreds. At this date, Lichfield returned two members to Parliament, and the sitting member was Thomas Anson of Shugborough, who was created Viscount Anson in 1806.

In the autumn of 1800, serious riots occurred owing to the high price of bread. In many parts of the country, and especially in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, fierce attacks were made on the persons and property of bakers and other tradesmen dealing in corn. Sir John Wrottesley took the part of the latter, and incurred from this cause the enmity of the lower classes in Wolverhampton and the black country, and a large mob of colliers and others marched to Wrottesley with the intention of breaking his windows and perhaps of doing further mischief. Sir John rode out to meet them, and fortunately came across them before they reached the house, and by his speech so far pacified them that they desisted from damaging his property. Adverting to the disturbances which had taken place in Wolverhampton and Birmingham, he pointed out to the leaders of the mob that the only effect had been to force the bakers and dealers in grain to close their establishments and to increase the scarcity and dearth of bread.³ His

¹ It is related in the "Life of the Duke of Wellington," by Gleig, that the Duke, then Colonel Wellesley, proposed to do the same after the luckless campaign of 1794, and applied for a post under the Irish Government. Upon this being refused he accompanied his regiment to India. There is no doubt that if Colonel Wellesley had been the eldest son and in possession of large landed property, he would have acted in the same way as Sir John Wrottesley, for there appeared little chance of any credit or glory to be obtained in the army at this period.

² Annual Register.

³ There had been several wet seasons and the wheat had not ripened, and in one of his speeches at this period Sir John had recommended the farmers to grow potatoes in order to provide sustenance for the people. This advice was taken ill by the common people, who resented the idea that they were to

conduct on this occasion appears to have attracted the notice of the Prime Minister, for Mr. Pitt wrote to him on the 28th of October 1800 asking him to move the Address to the King at the next sitting of Parliament. In his letter the Minister dwelt at length on the high price of corn and the importance of taking measures to reduce it.¹

Parliament met on the 1st of November. Sir John Wrottesley's speech on moving the Address occupies three or four columns of the *Parliamentary History*. As might be expected, he lays great stress in it on the importance of non-interference with the course of trade and of protecting the dealers in grain from the attacks of a misguided multitude.

On Pitt's resignation in 1801, and the accession of the Addington Ministry, Sir John went into Opposition, and spoke frequently in Parliament. On the 7th of March he moved for a Committee to enquire into the conduct of Ministers, and the inadequate measures taken at the time of the insurrection in Dublin of July 1800, and the murder of the Chief Justice, Lord Kilwarden. There was a majority of 96 in favour of Ministers, but all the leaders of the Whig party voted for the motion, and the minority list contained the names of Grenville, Leveson-Gower, Whitbread, Wilberforce, Windham, Grey, Canning, Morpeth, Sir Francis Burdett, and Lord Henry Petty, afterwards Marquis of Lansdowne.

In April 1804, Pitt moved a vote of censure on Ministers for their insufficient measures of defence, and Sir John spoke and voted in favour of it. On a division the Ministerial majority fell to 37. His opposition to Ministers, however, never took a factious form, for when Sheridan moved the rejection of the Additional Forces bill, he supported the Government and voted in favour of it. In the same Session he spoke in favour of Wilberforce's bill for the Suppression of the Slave Trade.

he fed upon potatoes like the native Irish. Several scurrilous lampoons were printed in Staffordshire, in which he was christened "Potatoe Jack," and the mob had filled their pockets with potatoes, intending to break his windows with them. I have been told, however, on credible authority, that it was not so much Sir John's eloquence on this occasion as an invitation to the mob to go to the back of the house for a drink of beer, which saved the situation.

¹ Wrottesley Muniments. Like most of the measures of William Pitt at this stage, his proposals were absurdly weak and inadequate, for they consisted only of a bounty on the importation of corn. It is plain that the high price of corn was a bounty in itself; the harvest in Russia and other parts of the Continent had been abundant, and what was really required was proper protection to ships bringing grain to this country. The convoy of merchant ships was a very unpopular service in the Royal Navy, for it carried with it no prospect of prize money or distinction, and a master mind was required in the Ministry who would insist on this service being performed.

Pitt resumed office in 1805, but died shortly afterwards, and at the General Election of 1806 Sir John lost his seat for Lichfield, the successful candidate being Mr. Venables Vernon, afterwards Vernou-Harcourt. He remained out of Parliament till the 23rd July 1823, when he was returned for the County in place of Sir John Fenton Boughey, who had died; the other member was Edward John Littleton, afterwards created Lord Hatherton.

It was during this interval that he established the bank at Wolverhampton in conjunction with Mr. Francis Holyoake, the head of a long established firm of solicitors in that town. The bank drew on Hanbury's in London, and appears to have been a very successful undertaking so long as it was in the hands of the original partners. Its establishment coincided with the great "boom" in the iron trade, produced by the invention of the Hot Blast, and the bank by its advances materially assisted in the development of the industry and made large profits. From 1822 to the end of 1833 the bank was carried on by Sir John Wrottesley and Mr. Francis Holyoake. In 1834 Sir John retired from the partnership and the bank was carried on by Sir Francis Goodricke, Bart., and Mr. George Holyoake down to the time of the sale of it to the Midland Banking Company.¹

¹ The rise and fall of the Holyokes would afford material for a romance. A Mr. George Holyoke, a member of an old yeoman family of co. Warwick, was practising as a solicitor in Wolverhampton in the early part of the eighteenth century, and died in 1769. He was succeeded by his nephew Francis Holyoke, who married Elizabeth the sister of Mr. Thomas Pearson (Pershouse) of Tettenhall, and died leaving his business and a considerable fortune to his nephew Francis Holyoke, the son of his brother Thomas. The last-named Francis married Dorothy the daughter of Robert Lyttelton, and the niece and eventually sole heiress of Philip Lyttelton, of Studley Castle, Warwickshire, who represented a younger branch of Lord Lyttelton's family. By her he had several children; the eldest of these, Francis, was born in 1797, and by his skill as a sportsman so ingratiated himself with Sir Harry Goodricke, a well-known sporting Baronet, that the latter left him the whole of his fortune. The author of "Silk and Scarlet" describes Francis Holyoke as the finest rider across country of his day. Quoting Dick Christian, who had been Huntsman of the Quorn, and was describing his former master, Sir Harry Goodricke, he says "Mr. Holyoke and him first met on the moors, then Sir Harry came to Ketton, and after that they two took stables at Melton together. He was a strong, resolute man on a horse, but couldn't ride like Mr. Holyoke. He was first man at one time, was Mr. Holyoke, for a 20 minntes thing, to see him ride Brilliant, my word!"

Sir Harry Goodricke died in the prime of life, and was the last of an ancient family. This took place in 1833, and by his will Francis Holyoke came into possession of Ribstone, in Yorkshire, and assumed the name of Goodricke. His rise was now rapid. In February 1835, during the short-lived administration of Sir Robert Peel, he was made a Baronet, and in the same year entered Parliament as member for Staffordshire in the place of Mr. Littleton, who had been raised to the Peerage. The fortune so lightly won was as lightly lost; all the landed property was sold before his death,

On his return to Parliament in 1823, at the age of 52, he occupied a somewhat unique position. As an old soldier who had seen service in the field and commanded a regiment of Militia, he spoke with effect on most military questions; as a man of large landed property (1,500 acres of which he farmed himself), he was a recognized authority on all agricultural matters; whilst as head of a successful banking business in the Midlands, he was brought into close connection with the commercial classes. It may be easily conceived, therefore, that he occupied a position of some eminence in the House, and I have been informed by the late Lord Hatherton, who was his colleague for many years, that owing to the independence of his character and the soundness of his judgment, no private member was held in higher esteem in the House, but, he added, that although he spoke frequently in the House and was always listened to with attention and respect, he never became a really fluent or easy speaker. At the date of his re-entry into Parliament, Lord Liverpool's Ministry was still in power.

In the Session of 1824 he advocated the introduction of a decimal coinage. His plan was to coin a double shilling and to make it the equivalent of a hundred farthings. He shewed that the effect would be merely to add 4 per cent. to the value of the penny and farthing. The motion was opposed by Mr. Wallace, the Master of the Mint, on the ground that the inconvenience to the general public would far outweigh the benefit of the measure to the commercial classes. The proposal obtained very little support, and Sir John withdrew his motion.¹

In the following Session he voted in favour of Sir Francis Burdett's Bill for the relief of the Roman Catholics; the majority for it in a very full House, on the third reading, was 21, but it was thrown out by the Lords.

and he eventually died a poor man. He married in 1827 Elizabeth, the sister of Mr. George Payne, of Sulby, a well-known man on the turf, and who occupied for many years a leading position in sporting circles. By her he had a large family, including three sons, but these all died without leaving any issue, and the title is now extinct. The only memento of the family now left is, appropriately enough, the well-known covert in the Melton Hunt called Goodricke's Gorse.

The younger brothers of Sir Francis likewise rose to positions of some local importance. Thomas served in the Army, and was for many years Master of the Albrighton Hunt; he married Charlotte, daughter of the Rev. Charles Whitmore, and left a son, Thomas, now in Australia. George, the partner in the Bank, married a daughter of Sir George Pigot, of Patshull, and was J.P. and Deputy-Lieutenant of co. Salop, but before his death he had dissipated a considerable fortune, and left his family in impoverished circumstances.

¹ Hansard's Debates.

In 1826, on the motion for the renewal of the Bank Charter, he moved the rejection of the bill, and his speech on this occasion occupies nine columns of Hansard. He was supported by the heads of all the great banking houses, such as Baring, Robarts, Abel Smith and Farquhar, but Government obtained a majority for the bill.¹

In the same year he supported Lord John Russell's motion for the Reform of Parliament, but the majority against it at this time was 124.

It would be tedious to name all his votes, and it is only necessary to mention that he supported all the Liberal measures of the day, such as the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, Reform of Parliament, the removal of the Disabilities of Roman Catholics and Jews, and spoke in favour of many of them.

In 1828 he spoke against the Government proposal to abolish the Militia, and in favour of increasing its efficiency. It is worthy of note that the Duke of Wellington was Prime Minister at this date, and it was during his administration that the Militia was abolished and the Transport train of the Army done away with. It has often been remarked by military men who know these facts that the Duke was the remote cause of all our disasters in the Crimea. He appeared, at this date, to consider that the country would never be at war again.

In 1829 Sir John presented a petition from Wolverhampton in favour of the Roman Catholic claims, and spoke in support of it. In the course of his speech he mentioned that the population of Wolverhampton at that date was 22,000, of which 2,760 had signed the petition.

In 1830 he brought forward a motion against the Truck System, which consisted in the payment of labourers' wages in goods instead of money. This proposal was eventually carried by other hands, but he was the first member of Parliament to draw attention to the evils of the system.¹

In the same year he moved for a Select Committee to enquire into the duties of the Commissioners of Hackney Coaches and the existing state of the public carriages of the Metropolis. The motion was agreed to, and the eventual result of it was the extinction of the "Jarvey" and the old hackney coach, and the introduction of the present cabs.¹

On the 15th of November of this year he voted in favour of Sir Henry Parnell's motion for an enquiry into the details of the Civil List, which threw out the Duke of Wellington's Ministry. The majority was 29.¹

¹ Hansard's Debates.

The next three years were taken up with the struggle over the Reform Bill, the story of which is too well known to bear repetition. Sir John voted steadily for it throughout all its stages, and spoke frequently upon the various clauses in Committee.

The first Reform Parliament met on the 29th of January 1833. The Act had divided Staffordshire into two constituencies, North and South. Sir Oswald Mosley and Edward Manningham Buller were returned for the Northern Division, and Edward John Littleton and Sir John Wrottesley for the Southern Division. The new constituencies all elected men of note in their various localities. Stoke-on-Trent returned Josiah Wedgwood and John Davenport, both great names in the Pottery trade; Walsall returned Charles Smith Foster, an eminent iron-master, and Wolverhampton returned William Wolrych Whitmore and Richard Fryer, a well-known banker.

In this year Sir John spoke a second time against the renewal and extension of the Bank Charter, in which it was proposed to make all their notes a legal tender. He was supported by Sir Robert Peel, Sir George Philips, Mark Philips, the member for Manchester, Sir John Hanmer, Herries, Sydney Herbert, and W. E. Gladstone, but the Government carried their bill by a large majority.¹

In 1834 he gave up his connection with the Wolverhampton Bank, owing to the retirement of his original partner, Francis Holyoake, who died in the following year. Mr. Holyoake was succeeded by his two sons, Francis Goodricke and George Holyoake. The latter was a solicitor in the town without any experience in banking business. Francis Goodricke had come into possession of large property, but was only known as a leading man in sporting circles, of extravagant habits, and a gambler on the turf. He was likewise a Tory with political views, and at this date was subscribing largely to party funds. The money he was spending in this way was obtained, in the first instance, by advances from the bank, and would have placed Sir John in a very anomalous position.² It was in this year the King dismissed his Ministers and called in the Duke of Wellington, who took all the Seals, pending the return of Sir Robert Peel, who was travelling abroad. Sir Robert Peel formed a Ministry in December, after his return to England, and immediately dissolved Parliament.

¹ Hansard's Debates.

² Up to this time the bank had been very prosperous, their profits having exceeded £40,000, of which a moiety fell to the share of Sir John Wrottesley. *Ex Inf.* George Holyoake, Esq.

The General Election which followed was a momentous one for the Tories, who spared no pains or money to obtain a majority in Parliament. In this they were unsuccessful, but in February 1835 Sir Francis Goodricke was created a Baronet, and there is no doubt he subscribed very largely to the Tory funds upon this occasion.

On a vacancy occurring in South Staffordshire, by the promotion of Mr. Littleton to the Peerage in May 1835, Sir Francis obtained the vacant seat after a severe contest. Up to this time it had been considered a safe seat for the Liberals, and the election of a Tory due in a great measure to a very large expenditure upon the constituency, was the cause of a very serious riot in Wolverhampton, the mob assailing the Old Swan Tavern, where the Committee of Sir Francis sat, and breaking all the windows. The magistrates, fearing further mischief, sent for the assistance of the military, and a troop of the First Dragoon Guards, under the command of Captain Manning, arrived from Birmingham. They were drawn up in the Old Market Place (now Queen Square), and on being ordered to clear the streets, a man in the crowd stabbed one of the troop horses in the ribs. The Dragoons, on perceiving the horse fall dead in a pool of blood, became exasperated, broke loose from their officers and attacked the mob with the flat sides of their sabres, inflicting a very severe beating upon them, during which some of their swords were broken. The troops even followed the retreating crowds into the adjoining streets, and a few shots were fired from their carbines. Fortunately nobody was killed, but there was a large number of wounded, and a loud outcry was raised against the military, which, under the influence of party feeling, was no doubt greatly exaggerated.¹

With a view of calming the excitement, Sir John Wrottesley pressed upon Lord John Russell, who was then Home Secretary, the advisability of a public enquiry on the spot, by a Commission sent down for the purpose. This was refused by the Government in the first instance, but after a debate in Parliament, and a strong speech delivered in favour of it by Sir John, they gave way and conceded the enquiry. During the speech which he made on this occasion, he made one of those slips of the tongue which are the delight of the House of Commons. He stated "he had been a magistrate for the County of Stafford for forty years, and had been concerned in the greater part of the

¹ Hansard's Debates. The Liberal party for instance declared the horse had been killed by the sword of one of the Dragoons, but this is not at all probable.

riots which had taken place in that district.”¹ When the laughter had subsided he corrected himself by saying, “he should have said he was engaged in suppressing those riots;” but the idea of the respectable and sedate member for South Staffordshire (he was then sixty-four years of age) having been concerned in all the riots of that district, must have been a source of unbounded delight to the House.

At the opening of Parliament in February 1836, Sir John was asked by Lord Melbourne to move the Address. His speech will be found in Hansard, but it was a quiet time, and it contains nothing of interest. In his preamble he said, “he could not plead the inexperience usually urged as a claim on the indulgence of the House.” It is curious to reflect that he had moved the Address thirty-six years before, on the request of Mr. Pitt, when the latter was in the plenitude of his power, and at the date he was then addressing the House the memory of the great Minister had become but the shadow of a name.

It will be seen from the above sketch that his career in Parliament was not an undistinguished one. At the General Election of 1837 he lost his seat for South Staffordshire,² and shortly before the Coronation of the Queen in the following year, Lord Melbourne wrote and offered him a Peerage. His patent is dated 11th July 1838.

He took his seat in the House of Lords, and in the Session of 1839 spoke against Lord Brougham’s Bill for the regulation of Beer Houses, and voted amongst the non-Contents with Lord Melbourne and the Lord Chancellor Cottenham, but the Liberal Ministry had not a majority in the House of Lords, and the bill was passed. He likewise spoke on the Tythe Commutation Act of the same Session.¹

From this point there is nothing further to record respecting him. He died on the 16th of March 1841, and was buried at Tettenhall, on the 23rd March, a great concourse of people following his remains to the grave. After his burial, the ancient family vault was finally closed. At the time it was sealed up it held twenty generations of the family.³

His first wife, Lady Caroline Wrottesley, died in London,

¹ Hansard’s Debates.

² Sir Francis Goodricke also lost his seat. The two new members were Viscount Ingestre and the Hon. George Anson. Sir John Wrottesley had no intention of standing, and had issued no address, but stood at the last moment to obviate some advantage which the Tories would have obtained by the absence of a second Whig candidate.

³ It may be worth relating, as showing the morbid curiosity of the multitude, that the incumbent of the parish was besieged with applications from persons in the neighbourhood to inspect the vault before its final closing.

aged forty-five, on the 7th March 1818, and was buried at Tettenhall.¹ Sir John married secondly, on the 19th May 1819, Julia, the daughter of John Conyers, Esq., of Copt Hall, Essex, a well-known sporting character. She was the widow of Sir John's brother-in-law, Captain the Hon. John Astley Bennet, of the Royal Navy,² and one of the most agreeable women of her day. As Julia Conyers she is mentioned in Lord Palmerston's letters. She died 29th September 1860, and was buried at Tettenhall.

By his first wife he had six sons and eight daughters:—

1. John, who was born at Wrottesley on the 5th of August 1798,¹ and succeeded as second Baron.
2. Charles Alexander, the second son, was born at Wrottesley 20 October 1799,¹ and obtained a commission as Cornet in the 16th Lancers (his father's old regiment) on the 21st of December 1815. The regiment moved to Ireland in March 1816, and in the following year took up the Dublin duty. In this year Earl Talbot became Lord Lieutenant, and Charles Wrottesley was appointed one of the Viceregal aides-de-camp, and appears to have held the appointment till Lord Talbot's resignation in 1821. In the following year he embarked with the regiment for India, and after five months' voyage in a troopship arrived at Calcutta in December 1822. In December 1825 the regiment took the field as part of an expeditionary force, which had been collected under Lord Combermere for the siege of Bhurtpoor. The fortress was captured 18th January 1826, and the prize money amounted to £250 for each Subaltern. The Lieut.-Colonels, of which there were two, obtained £1,500 each. Out of this prize-money the officers of the Regiment subscribed £5,000 for the relief of the widows of officers and soldiers who had been killed in the siege.³

He obtained his Lieutenancy 5th July 1821, and was promoted to an unattached Captaincy, 10th June 1825, but the notification of this did not arrive before the regiment had taken the field. He was appointed Captain 43rd Regiment on the 19th of September 1826, and was pro-

¹ Tettenhall Register.

² Burke's Peerage and Baronetage, under Tankerville. Captain John Astley Bennet died at Wrottesley and was buried at Tettenhall 20th September 1812.

³ Regimental History of the 16th Lancers.

moted to an unattached Majority, 5th April 1831; exchanged to the 95th Regiment, 25th July, 1834, and served in it as Major till 7th September 1838, when he exchanged to the 29th Regiment. He obtained a regimental Lieut.-Colonelcy on the 3rd July 1839, and served in command of the 29th Regiment till the 8th of April 1842, when he exchanged to half-pay on the regiment being ordered to India. This was done on medical advice, as it was considered that his health would not stand another turn of service in the tropics, but he lost by it the Sutlej campaign, and the probability of employment as a Brigadier-General in all the actions of the Punjaub under Lord Gough. He retired from the Army, 16th April 1847, and died unmarried at Clifton, 24th February 1861.

3. Robert, the third son, was born at Wrottesley¹ 2nd June 1801, and matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, 22nd October 1818, obtaining the degree of B.A. in 1822 and M.A. in 1825. In the latter year he was appointed Perpetual Curate of Tettenhall and Principal Official of the Peculiar.² He married, in 1828, Georgiana, daughter of Sir George Pigot of Patshull, and was presented by Lord Ward to the Rectory of Himley, co. Stafford in 1830. He died, 20th January 1838, leaving no issue. He was buried at Tettenhall on the 27th of January.¹
4. George Thomas, the fourth son, died 8th April 1818, aged ten.¹
5. Walter, the fifth son, was born 8th April 1810,¹ and matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, 28th June 1827. He obtained the degree of B.A. in 1831, and in the same year was elected a Fellow of All Souls'. He afterwards became a Barrister at Law, Lincoln's Inn, and married, 22nd June 1843, Marianne Lucy, the only daughter of Colonel Archer, formerly of the 16th Lancers. He died, 2nd May 1872, leaving issue, Walter Francis, who entered into holy orders, and a daughter, Lucy Edith, who married, 9th September 1869, Charles Gilbert, the second son of John Moyer Heathcote of Connington Castle, and has issue, two daughters and a son. Mrs. Walter Wrottesley died, 29th

¹ Tettenhall Register.

² See p. 272. His uncle, the Rev. Charles Wrottesley, had held the same office.

March 1848, and her son died unmarried, 16th February 1873.

6. Edward Bennet, the sixth son, was born 26th July 1811,¹ and matriculated at New Inn Hall, Oxford, 7th February 1833. He married, 8th January 1846, Ellen Charlotte, daughter of George Rush, Esq., of Elsenham Hall, Essex, and died 20 Jan. 1892, leaving issue by her (who died 29th October 1878), Alfred Edward, who was born 29th December 1855, and entered the Corps of Royal Engineers in 1874, becoming Major in 1894. In 1899, on the outbreak of the Boer War, he was appointed Director of Telegraphs with the Field Force, and was given the local rank of Lieut.-Colonel, but was unfortunately drowned whilst on passage to South Africa on the 26th of October. He was an officer of much promise and of considerable professional ability. He married, 20th April 1881, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Ellen Mary Isabel, daughter of Major-General Drayson, R.A., and left a son, Hugh Edward, born at Halifax, N.S., 12th February 1882, now a Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade, and a daughter, Maud Ellen.

Edward Bennet Wrottesley had also two daughters, Clara Bennet, who died unmarried, 25th Sept. 1882, aged 32, and Ellen Maria, who married, 10th July 1884, the Rev. Canon Charles Rowland Haydock Hill, Rector of Holy Trinity, Dorchester, and has issue, a son.

The daughters of John, first Baron Wrottesley, were:—

1. Caroline, born at Wrottesley 31st December 1797, died an infant, 1798.¹
2. Emma died an infant, 8th March 1804.¹
3. Henrietta, born in 1805; married, 10th Jan. 1832, Henry van Straubenzee of Spennithorne, co. York, formerly of the 14th Light Dragoons, and afterwards Colonel of the West York Militia, who died 31 May 1892. She died, 13th May 1893, aged eighty-eight, leaving, with other issue, Major-General Turner van Straubenzee, C.B., born 1838, and Mary, who married in 1866 Sir William Chaytor, Bart., of Crofts Hall, Darlington.
4. Louisa, died 16th February 1821, aged fourteen.¹
5. Maria, died unmarried, at Bournemouth, 2nd May 1881.
6. Mary, died unmarried, at Bournemouth, 4th May 1883

¹ Tettenhall Register.

7. Julia, born 22nd September 1814, and died the same day.
8. Fanny Isabella, buried at Tettenhall 18 April 1829, aged eleven.¹

JOHN, THE SECOND BARON WROTTESLEY, AND TENTH
BARONET, 1811—1867.

John, the second Baron, was born at Wroottesley on the 5th of August 1798¹ and like his father and grandfather before him, was educated at Westminster School, where he remained from January 1810 to 29th July 1814. He matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, in May 1816, and applying himself principally to mathematics and astronomy, he passed out with the distinction of a First Class in 1819. He obtained the Degree of M.A. in 1823, and was made Honorary Student of Christ Church in 1860.² On leaving the University he took up the study of the Law as a profession, was called to the Bar in February 1823, and for the next nine years practised as a conveyancer and Equity draughtsman.

In 1820 he joined the Astronomical Society at the time of its first formation, and afterwards acted as its Secretary, and later on, as President.

He married at Brewood Church, 28th July 1821, Sophia Elizabeth, the third daughter of Thomas Giffard, Esq., of Chillington,³ by his wife, Lady Charlotte Courtenay. After his marriage he took a house at 5, Powis Place, Bloomsbury, and erected a small transit and a transit circle on the sill of his dressing-room. At this time he appears to have been a very hard worker, for he was reading and practising law during the day-time and observing and computing at night often till three o'clock in the morning, but the fascination which his astronomical pursuits exercised over his mind at this period, produced a weakness of the eyes which never deserted him, and must have been a cause of great trouble to him in after life. He was one of the original founders of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, and was placed on the Committee in 1827. He wrote for it the article on "Navigation," which was published in the "Library of Useful Knowledge," and he also took charge of the astronomical articles in the "British Almanac," which was published by the same Society.

¹ Tettenhall Registers.

² Foster's Alumni Oxonienses.

³ Brewood Register.

In 1829 he removed from London to Blackheath, the confined air of Powis Place being considered detrimental to the health of his children. Here he built an observatory in his garden, and set up the instruments which are described in the "Memoirs" of the Royal Astronomical Society. At this time he was still working at the Law, and had to leave Blackheath early every morning in a curious old-fashioned public coach, occupying a place in the "Basket" behind, which held four persons. For his new observatory he required the services of an assistant, and he instructed in astronomy and mathematics a very intelligent legal clerk, Mr. John Hartnup, who had entered his service in 1829. To the ability, zeal, and energy of Mr. Hartnup¹ he attributed, in a great measure, the success of his "Catalogue of the Right Ascensions of 1318 Stars," which gained him the Gold Medal of the Astronomical Society in 1839, and established his reputation with foreign astronomers.

In 1831, after the passing of the Reform Bill, he was appointed one of the Boundary Commission for the delimitation of the new County and Borough Boundaries. The President of the Commission was the Right Honble. J. Abercromby, the Chief Baron of Scotland, and amongst the Commissioners were many who rose into eminence in after life. Of these may be named Mr. E. J. Littleton, afterwards Lord Hatherton, Lieutenant Thomas Drummond, R.E., afterwards Under Secretary for Ireland, Lieutenant Dawson, R.E., afterwards Director of the Ordnance Survey, Captain F. Beaufort, R.N., afterwards Hydrographer of the Admiralty, the Rev. R. Sheepshanks, a well-known astronomer, Mr. Bellenden Kerr, the Conveyancer and Equity Surveyor, and John Wrottesley, afterwards President of the Royal Society.

Nearly all these names are to be found on the Committee of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, of which Lord Brougham was the Chairman, and these as well as the lawyers on the Commission were doubtless nominated by him; the Engineer officers had been lent to the Commission by the Ordnance Office, but as soon as the names were announced by Lord Althorp in the House of Commons, the Opposition raised a loud outcry, complaining that many of the Commissioners were political partisans of the Government or closely connected with their supporters, objecting specially on these grounds to Mr. Littleton and Mr. Wrottesley.

Lord Althorp and Lord John Russell defended the choice of the Commissioners, and protested against any idea of political partisanship in their selection, their nomination being due in

¹ Mr. Hartnup, from a lawyer's clerk subsequently rose to the position of Astronomer of the Liverpool Observatory, and had a considerable reputation in the scientific world as a practical astronomer and observer.

nearly every case to their legal or scientific acquirements, and after a somewhat heated wrangle the storm blew over. The Commissioners were unpaid, but they were allowed liberal travelling expenses by the Treasury.

The selection of John Wrottesley was, without doubt, due to Lord Brougham, and it was probably owing to the same influence that he was appointed shortly afterwards one of the Poor Law Commissioners. The report of this Commission effected a revolution in our Poor Law system, and is the basis on which the administration of the Law has been carried out ever since, but at the date of its promulgation it was fiercely assailed in many quarters.

In 1841 he succeeded to the title and estates, and soon after taking up his residence at Wrottesley he erected the Observatory, which forms a conspicuous object from the high road between Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury. The Observatory and its instruments have been fully described in the "Memoirs" of the Royal Astronomical Society; it became well known to astronomers on account of the continuous work carried on within it. The work of observation was committed to the care of well trained assistants, one of whom, Mr. Joseph Hough, still resides in the neighbourhood, and exercises a general supervision over its contents, although no observations have been carried on for many years.

Shortly after the completion of the building, one of his neighbours sent him the following lines:—

"A stedfast Whig, in Melbourne's Liberal reign,
Sir John at length obtained a Baron's glory,
His son now reigns o'er Wrottesley's fair domain,
And passers-by cry out 'Observ-a-tory.'"

In 1841 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and was shortly afterwards appointed a member of the Committee, on which he served till his death in 1867.

Shortly before the meeting of Parliament in 1850, he was asked by Lord Lansdowne to move the Address in the House of Lords. It was the Session which followed the so-called Papal aggression, and the Durham letter of Lord John Russell. The popular outcry had been so violent that the Government bent before the storm, and Lord Lansdowne stated in his letter that it would be necessary to legislate upon the subject. Lord Wrottesley objected very strongly to any bill of pains and penalties against the Catholics, and declined under these circumstances to move the Address in the House. His reply apparently was not to the liking of Lord Lansdowne, for he informed the writer that his relations with the Government afterwards were not on so cordial a footing as they had been previous to this episode. In 1855, however, on his writing

to Lord Lansdowne that the recall of Sir John Burgoyne from the Crimea and the way it had been announced by Lord Panmure in the House would cast a slur upon the reputation of a very gallant officer, and that his relationship to Sir John would justify him in asking a question in the House on the subject, Lord Lansdowne got up in the House and delivered a very eloquent eulogium upon Sir John, declaring that there was no intention whatever of casting any reflection upon him by his recall from the seat of war.¹

His rank as a Peer, combined with his scientific attainments, led to his employment as President of several Royal Commissions of a quasi-scientific nature. The most important of these was one to investigate and report upon the strains to which iron railway bridges were exposed by the passage over them of heavy trains. Accidents had occurred by the failure of some of these bridges, after they had been passed by the Government Surveyors, and in other cases the Government Engineers had refused to certify bridges as safe on grounds which the Civil Engineers considered to be unsound and vexatious. Up to this date the test of such bridges had been one of a statical nature only, by noting the deflection caused by heavy weights at rest upon them; but Engineers had begun to suspect that a dynamic force was exercised by the passage over bridges of heavy weights at a very high velocity, and the Commission was called upon to investigate this subject. Lord Wrottesley had always retained his fondness for pure mathematics, and at one of the early meetings of the Commission proposed that an attempt should be made to procure, if possible, a mathematical formula for such strains, and the solution of the problem was given to Mr (now Sir George) Stokes, who was the Senior Wrangler of his day and Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge. It was a very difficult analytical problem, but by making certain assumptions, Mr. Stokes was able to produce a mathematical expression for these forces, which was found of some practical utility, and established his reputation abroad, as well as in England, as one of the leading mathematicians of his day.

In 1853, by a speech in the House of Lords, Lord Wrottesley drew the attention of the Government to the writings of Lieutenant Maury, of the United States Navy, on improvements in navigation and on the Law of Storms. His object

¹ The cause of Sir John Burgoyne's recall was that his views were at variance with those of the French engineers. He objected to an assault upon the place until the defences of the Malakoff Tower had been subdued, as he considered the Malakoff Tower to be the key of the Russian position, and the result of the siege shewed he was right.

in this was to interest the public as well as the Government in a scheme for systematic observations with a view of determining the course and periods of the destructive hurricanes and cyclones of tropical climates. In this scheme he obtained the co-operation of Colonel James, R.E., the Director of the Ordnance Survey, and of Sir John Burgoyne, the Inspector General of Fortifications. The latter recommended to the Secretary of State for War that uniform meteorological observations should be taken at all the Royal Engineer stations which were scattered about in various parts of the globe. On the War Office concurring in this, the Treasury granted money for the requisite instruments, and a syllabus and instructions were drawn up by Colonel James and issued to all Royal Engineer stations. These observations were carried on for some years, but the cost of tabulating and printing them was found to be so heavy that the Treasury objected to the expense, and the scheme not being supported by the learned societies, it was eventually discontinued. The scheme appears to have been started on too ambitious a scale, and it would have been better to have confined the observations to those parts of the globe which were the scene of these great atmospheric disturbances. Lord Wrottesley's speech was afterwards published as a pamphlet, and attracted a good deal of attention abroad as well as in England.

On 30th November 1854 he succeeded Lord Rosse as President of the Royal Society, and held the office until 1858, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Sir Benjamin Brodie. In 1860 he was President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and delivered the usual inaugural address. The meeting took place at Oxford, and was signalised by the famous contest between Wilberforce, the Bishop of Oxford, and Professor Huxley on Darwin's theory of the Origin of Man. On the 2nd July 1860 the University conferred on him the degree of D.C.L. In September 1865, at the opening of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, he delivered an address on "The Recent Applications of the Spectrum Analysis to Astronomical Phenomena," which was afterwards published, and in the following year he spoke in the House of Lords on the "Public School Bills," advocating strongly the cause of science as a branch of education. In addition to these pamphlets and addresses and his contributions to the Royal Astronomical Society, he published in 1859 "Thoughts on Government and Legislation," which was translated into German in 1869.

He died at Wrottesley on the 27th October 1867, aged 69, and was buried at Tettenhall. Up to the time of his death in 1867 he was the only person who had held the office of Presi-

dent in each of the three great scientific societies, viz.—the Royal, the Astronomical, and the British Association.

The following characteristic sketch of him occurs in an obituary article in the "Athenæum" newspaper of November 1867, written by one who must have known him well:—

"Lord Wrottesley was a strong man in all good work, but he did not make much show even in science, and hardly ever came forward in political life. He was, we believe, one of the Boundary Commissioners under the first Reform Bill. His characteristics were plain manners, kind feelings, sound judgment and useful intellect. A stranger at the Royal Society would look with some surprise when he saw a quiet gentleman, utterly devoid of all mark of pretension, step into the chair of Newton, and his surprise would be augmented if he chanced to be told that the unassuming President was a man of such splendid descent, that many held his father to have derogated when he accepted a Peerage."

With this flourish of trumpets I may fitly close my account of him.

He had five sons and two daughters. Of these—

Arthur, the eldest son, succeeded his father.

Charles, the second son, was born at 5, Powis Place, Bloomsbury, 23rd February 1826, and matriculated at University College, Oxford, 30th May 1844. He obtained the Degree of B.A. in 1847, and M.A. in 1851. He was elected Fellow of All Souls' in 1847. He was a Student of Lincoln's Inn in 1850, but was never called to the Bar. On the revival of the Militia in 1852, he became Captain of the 1st Regiment of the King's Own Staffordshire Militia, and served with it at the Ionian Islands after its embodiment during the Crimean War. Whilst there he obtained leave to proceed to the Crimea, and was a witness of the unsuccessful assault upon Sebastopol of the 18th June 1855. He served again with the regiment after its embodiment during the Indian Mutiny, and rose to the rank of Major. Upon the establishment of the Volunteer force in 1860 he was appointed to the command of the Tettenhall Company, and was subsequently Major and Commandant of the Walsall Administrative Battalion. Upon his retirement from the Militia in 1867, the officers of the Regiment presented him with a piece of plate as a testimonial "of their esteem and regard." He is still living.

George, the third son, was born at 5, Powis Place, 15th June 1827. He entered the Royal Military Academy in 1842, and obtained a commission in the Royal Engineers in 1845. On the outbreak of the Russian war he was ordered to the East, and was employed on the survey

and a scheme of defence for the Dardanelles. He accompanied General Sir John Burgoyne on his mission to Omar Pasha at Shumla, and was afterwards appointed A.D.C. to Brigadier-General Tylden, the Commanding Royal Engineer of the Forces in Turkey. After the Russians had crossed the Danube and had invested Silistria, he was ordered to accompany Lord Raglan to Varna, where a meeting was to be held with Omar Pasha, to deliberate upon the movements of the Allied Forces. At this meeting it was decided to move the English forces up to Varna at once, and as no member of the Quartermaster-General's Department was present, Lieut. Wrottesley was ordered by Lord Raglan to reconnoitre the road for thirty miles in advance of Varna, and select positions for the encampment of two Divisions of the Army. Omar Pasha had made urgent representations that one Division should be posted as far in advance as Devna, twenty-five miles from Varna, in order to maintain the communication with Shumla, and when Lord Raglan gave verbal instructions to Lieut. Wrottesley, he informed him that the retreat of this Division upon Varna might be cut off by a rapid advance of the Russians, and he was to report upon the practicability of another line of retreat to the south of the Devna Lakes. At this time it was considered that Russia would advance upon Turkey with overwhelming forces, and these instructions are worth recording as shewing how different the outcome of the war was, from the original conception of it. In October 1854 Lieut. Wrottesley was invalided home from Turkey owing to dysentery and fever contracted at Varna. In December following he obtained the rank of Captain, and in April 1855 was nominated by Lord Panmure, then Secretary for War, to act as military adviser to the Admiral in command of the Baltic Fleet, but was forced to forego this duty owing to the state of his health.¹ In 1855 he became A.D.C. to General Sir John Burgoyne, the Inspector-General of Fortifications. In 1859 he was appointed Secretary to the Defence Committee of the War Office,

¹ At the risk of being considered egotistical, I append a letter, written to me on this occasion by Sir Charles Wood, the First Lord of the Admiralty, dated 2nd April, 1855:—

"Dear Sir,—I ought, perhaps, to have addressed myself to your father, who is an old college acquaintance of mine, as was your grandfather in Parliament, but having these hereditary claims to your acquaintance, I shall save time by writing to yourself.

"I wish to send an Engineer officer to the Baltic with Admiral Dundas, and I am inclined to think that no one would do what is to be done better than

and in the same year acted as Secretary to the Committee on the Influence of Rifled Artillery on works of Defence. In this year, also, he accompanied Sir John Burgoyne on a special mission to the French Emperor, in order to present to him the Funeral Car which had been used at the interment of the first Emperor at St. Helena.¹ In 1863 he was President of a War Office Committee on Army Signalling, which introduced into the service the Morse system of signalling by dots and dashes.² He became Lieut.-Colonel in 1868; was Commanding Royal Engineer at Shorncliffe, 1868-72; at Gravesend, 1872-75; and at Woolwich, 1875-81. He retired on full pay as Colonel, with the honorary rank of Major-General in 1881.

He married, in 1854, Margaret Anne, the eldest daughter of the late Field-Marshal Sir John Fox Burgoyne, Bart. She died in 1883, and he married secondly in 1889, Nina Margaret, the daughter of John William Philips, Esq., of Heybridge, Staffordshire. Major-General Wrottesley is still alive and is the author of the present work.

Henry, the fourth son, was born at 5, Powis Place 4th March 1829. After passing through the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, he obtained a commission without purchase, as Ensign of the 43rd Regiment, 9th June 1846, and became Lieutenant, 11th December 1849. In 1851, whilst quartered at Clonmel, the regiment received orders to embark for the Cape of Good Hope in order to reinforce the forces employed under General Sir Harry Smith for the subjugation of the Hottentots and Kaffirs, who

yourself. There may not be a great deal to do, but I wish to have an officer on whose judgment, in case of need, Admiral Dundas could rely.

"You will be in the flagship permanently, but moveable for temporary purpose to any other vessel, which might be convenient. Your obedient servant,

"CHARLES WOOD.

"You must be ready to start very soon."

The military operations in the Baltic in 1855 consisted of the bombardment of Sweaborg, for which my substitute obtained a Brevet majority and the C.B.

¹ The Emperor was at Compiègne, and the Mission was received by Prince Napoleon on his behalf at the Invalides. Sir John Burgoyne and his staff, which consisted of Major Stanton, R.E., and Captain Wrottesley, were afterwards invited to stay at Compiègne, and took part in one of the famous stag-hunts in the forest.

² The other members of the Committee were the late Sir Francis (then Captain) Bolton, a very able officer of Infantry, and Lieut. Colomb, R.N., afterwards Rear-Admiral Colomb. These two officers were employed to bring the system into operation in their respective services. It was eventually considered so valuable that Captain Bolton was knighted, and Lient. Colomb received a sum of money (£5,000 it is believed) in lieu of Knighthood. The original suggestion proceeded from myself, but I claim no credit for it, as the inventor was Mr. Morse, an American. At the date in question Professor Wheatstone's Code was still in use in England.

were in revolt. The regiment embarked at Cork in September in H.M.S. "Vulcan"; Henry Wrottesley being then the senior Lieutenant of his regiment and in command of a company. The troops were disembarked at East London, and arrived at King William's Town on the 21st of December. Towards the close of February 1852 the regiment was sent to clear Fuller's Hoek, which had been occupied by the Chief Macomo and his followers. On the 9th of March they reached Blinkwater, and whilst scouring Fuller's Hoek, on the 11th of March Henry Wrottesley was shot in the thigh by a musket ball which divided the femoral artery, and was the cause of his death very shortly afterwards.

Cameron, the fifth son, was born at Blackheath, 19th December 1834, and was educated at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, from which he passed out with Honours and at the head of his batch in 1853. He was appointed 2nd Lieutenant of the Royal Engineers 21st December 1853 and Lieutenant on the 17th of February 1854. On the completion of his course of instruction at Chatham he was specially selected, on account of his brilliant career at the Royal Military Academy,¹ to accompany the troops to the Baltic during the Russian War, and was present at the siege of Bomarsund, where he was unfortunately killed by a cannon shot on the 15th of August 1854.

Julia, the eldest daughter, was born at Wrottesley 22nd October 1822, and died young of measles, at Blackheath, on the 26th of March 1835. She was buried in the Dartmouth vault in Lewisham Church.

Caroline was born at Blackheath, 24th February 1832, and married on the 28th December 1859, Edward Wallace Goodlake, of the Inner Temple, second son of Thomas Mills Goodlake, Esq., of Wadley House, Berks. She died at Wrottesley, s.p., on the 1st of September 1860 and was buried at Tettenhall.

ARTHUR, THIRD BARON WROTTESELEY, AND ELEVENTH BARONET.

Arthur, the present Peer, was born at 5, Powis Place, Bloomsbury, on the 17th of June 1824, and was educated at Rugby under Dr. Arnold. At Rugby he was noted as a

¹ His great forte was mathematics, in which he was so far in advance of the other Cadets that a special paper on the Integral Calculus had to be drawn up for his examination. The Professor of Mathematics at the Royal Military Academy told my father he would certainly have been a Wrangler at Cambridge.

Cricketer, and played in the match between the Rugbeians and the M.C.C., which has been rendered famous by the account of it in "Tom Brown's School Days." Hughes, the author of the book, was the Captain of the Eleven, and Arthur Wrottesley was the successful bowler on the Rugby side.¹ He matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, 9th June 1843, and obtained his degree of B.A. in 1846. He soon afterwards joined the Staffordshire Yeomanry.

In 1854, when the Staffordshire Militia was embodied owing to the Russian War, he resigned his commission in the Yeomanry and was appointed Major of the 2nd Regiment. He served with them at Portsmouth till they were disembodied in the following year. In 1857, when the regiment was again embodied owing to the Indian Mutiny, he served with them at Plymouth and in Ireland.

On the establishment of the Volunteers in 1860 he was appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the 2nd Staffordshire Battalion, and held this post for a few years. On his appointment as Lord-Lieutenant of the County in 1871 he resigned his Commission in the Militia.

In 1869, soon after the formation of the first Administration of Mr. Gladstone, he was appointed one of the Lords-in-Waiting to the Queen, and held this post till 1874. He was re-appointed to the same office in 1880 on the formation of Mr. Gladstone's second Administration, and held it till 1885. He resigned the Lord-Lieutenancy in 1887.

On the establishment of the County Councils he was elected as representative of the Tettenhall Division, and on his resignation in 1898, was made an Alderman. He was Master of the Albrighton Foxhounds from 1849 to the end of the season of 1852.

He married, on the 18th July 1861, at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Charing Cross, Augusta Elizabeth, the fourth daughter of Albert, first Lord Londesborough, and by her (who died 20th January 1887) has had issue:—

1. William, late Captain 4th Dragoon Guards, who was born 17th May 1863. He was educated at Eton, and in 1880 was appointed Lieutenant of the 2nd Staffordshire Militia. In 1885 he obtained a commission in the 4th Dragoon Guards, and was promoted to Captain in 1891. He accompanied the regiment to India in 1894, and served with it in the North-West Frontier War of 1897, for which he obtained a medal and two clasps. On his passage home on sick leave, in 1899, he died suddenly, on

¹ An account of this match, with the names of the players, was published in Bayly's Magazine of May 1898.

board the P. and O. steamer, "Peninsular," on the 7th of October, shortly before the arrival of the vessel at Marseilles. His remains were brought to England and interred in the family vault at Tettenhall, on the 16th of October 1899.

2. Bertram Francis, the second son, was born 20th July 1864, and died whilst at school at Cheam, 26th October 1875.
3. Victor Alexander, for whom Queen Victoria stood sponsor, was born 18th September 1873.
4. Walter Bennet, the fourth son, was born 28th September 1877.
5. Henrietta Evelyn, the only daughter, was born 10th October 1866.

Lord Wrottesley succeeded to the Wrottesley estates at his father's death in 1867, and has recently purchased additional land in Sussex. The great number of local offices which he has held at various times is worthy of note. He has served as an officer of Yeomanry, of Militia, and of Volunteers, as Justice of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant, Master of Foxhounds, County Councillor, County Alderman, and Lord-Lieutenant.

The present Peer is the twenty-second in direct male descent from Simon, who was enfeoffed in the manor of Wrottesley *circa* 1164, and it is a remarkable circumstance and probably unique, that from that period the manor has descended in a direct line from father to son in every generation.

Shortly before midnight of the 16th of December 1897, Lord Wrottesley on entering his dressing-room, which was on the first floor of the house, found it full of smoke. The house was well provided with all the means recommended by the London Fire Brigade for the extinction of fires. On every floor were hung buckets filled with water, and a small manual engine was kept on the premises. It was found impossible, however, to discover the source of the fire, or even to approach the scene of it, owing to the intense smoke, and like all fires which had been smouldering for some time, as soon as a ladder had been placed against the window and an opening made into the room from the outside, the current of air produced a fierce flame, before which everybody had to retreat, and it was evident that the house was doomed. The dressing-room, where the fire originated, was situated on the west side of the house, a strong westerly wind was blowing at the time, and the spread of the fire was so rapid that none of the inmates were able to save their clothes. The floors and woodwork of the house being two hundred years old, were extremely dry and burnt like match

wood. Besides the servants, the only persons staying in the house were Lord Wrottesley, his daughter, the Hon. Evelyn Wrottesley, and a cousin, Major Alfred Wrottesley, of the Royal Engineers, all of whom, as well as the servants, escaped without any injury. The family pictures and plate and some of the furniture on the ground floor were saved, but the ancient library of books and all the family muniments, which were on the first floor, were destroyed.¹ It was owing to the loss of the latter that it was determined to print this history and to introduce into it such of the ancient deeds which bore on the descent or history of the family, and which had been fortunately copied in former days by the present writer.

¹ The old Chapel bell, which hung on the outside of the house, was saved. This bell bears the date cast on it of 1601, and the following inscription in ancient Lombardic letters on a label welded on it:—

† EYLHSARW : RETLAW . : MYCALVMIS : IED : SVNQB : RIV

The inscription read backwards, is as follows:—

VIR BONUS DEI SIMULACUM WALTER WRASHLYE.

YOUNGER BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY.

Younger branches of the family sprang from William Wrottesley, the brother of Richard Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, living temp. Henry VII and Henry VIII, see p. 257, and from Thomas, one of the younger sons of the same Richard. The will of William Wrottesley was dated 26th December 1512, and was proved on the 4th of February 1512-13 in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. He is styled in the will "William Wrottesley, of Redynge, in the co. of Berks, Gentilman," and he makes in it the following bequests:—

To my doughter Elizabeth 5 marks, and my best silver pott, half a dozen of my best silver spones and my best cheyne of golde, and a crosse of golde.

To my doughter Custance, in redy money £10 and two cheynes of golde of the value of 20 marks & all my stuffe beinge in my chamber within the Citie of London except a cofer which I geve and bequeth to my sonne Robert. Also I geve and bequeth to the said Custance a salt of silver, a pece of silver and half a dozen of silver spones.

Item I bequeth to my sonne in lawe Escue (Askew) my best hope (*sic*) of golde of the price of 4 marks and 3s. 4d. sterling.

To my lady Sturton my signet of golde, price 26s. 8d. and to my lorde her husband a bowed ryall and to my lorde Sowche (de la Zouch) a bowed ryall of golde.

Item I bequeth to John Wraxley (Wrottesley) a rose of golde.

To my lady Scrope a shelde of golde and a pair of bedes of white amber, and to Dame Parnell beyng within the nonry of Dertforde in the co. of Kent to pray for my soule 13s. 4d. and my best furre and my best coral bedes gawded with silver and gilte.

To my eldest brother 10s. and I will and ordeyne by this my testament that my said eldest brother shall well and truly pay 40s. which that he oweth me, that is to say, unto his wife 6s. 8d., to his son Walter 6s. 8d., and to his son Thomas 13s. 4d.

Also I bequeth to my son Edward all the dettes which is owinge to me of the persones hereunder written.

And to my said son Edward a doblet of black satyn and 20s. sterling, to his wife and to his children, etc. (No names given.)

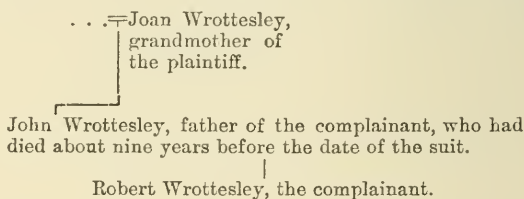
To Robert my sonne all my londes and tenements lyinge in the towne of Redynge in the co. of Berks, to him and to his heirs for evermore, 10s. to be paid out of them yearly to the churchwardens of the Parish Church of our Lady of Redynge.

Robert my sonne and Custance my doughter to be executors.

In the proof of the will it is stated that Robert and Constance were both under age, but that the will was proved "*de expressu consensu et assensu Roberti Wrottesley et Custancie Wrottesley executorum in hujusmodo testamento nominatorum in minore etate existentibus, videlicet Roberto personaliter et Custancie in persona Magistri Willelmi Falk procuratoris,*" etc. It would appear by this that Robert Wrottesley, although under age, must have reached the age of consent, and was therefore over fourteen years of age. He would, therefore, have been born about the year 1498, and I conclude he is identical with the Robert Wrastley who was member for Chippenham, co. Wilts, in the first year of Queen Mary, viz., 1553.¹

The establishment of a younger branch in Wiltshire seems to be due to their relationship to Dr. Richard Dudley, the Chancellor of Salisbury, who was brother to Dorothy, the wife of Richard Wrottesley, see p. 256. Richard Dudley was buried at Salisbury in 1536. He made his will on the 21st May 1536, and it was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 12th of June following. In this will (of which Henry Wrottesley, the son of Richard, was one of the executors), he makes bequests to Henry Wrottesley, to Richard Wrottesley, the son of Henry, and the testator's godson, to John Wrottesley, the elder brother of Henry, and to Anne Wrottesley and her brothers; the relationship of Anne to the other members of the Wrottesley family is not mentioned in the will.²

Amongst the Chancery Suits of the year 1601, there is one in which Robert Wrottesley, of Chippenham, co. Wilts, who appears to have been the grandson of the above named Robert, sues Richard Sydenham, of Clarendon Park, co. Wilts, for premises in Eastbrent, co. Somerset, called Wingods. The pleadings in this suit give the following pedigree:—



Amongst the papers of Mr. F. M. E. Jervoise, of Herriard, co. Hants, and of Britford, co. Wilts, there is a deed dated 1st February 3 Elizabeth (1560-1), by which John

¹ Members of Parliament, printed as a Blue Book, by order of the House of Commons.

² See Staffordshire Collections, vol. ix, p. 81, which gives the will *in extenso*.

Wingood, of Brumham, co. Wilts, gentleman, in consideration of his marriage with Joan Wrasley *alias* Wrasley, widow, late the wife of Robert Wrasley *alias* Wrasley, deceased, settles upon her all his messuage and tenements called Wingoods in the Parish of Eastbrent, co. Somerset, and all his lands, etc., in the said County or elsewhere in England, to the use of the said John Wingood and Joan Wrasley for their lives, and with certain remainders over.¹

The will of Joane Wrottesley, widow, of Chippenham, was dated 24th April 35 Elizabeth (1593) and was proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Wilts, 11th June 1593-4. By it she bequeaths £4 to Jane Wrottesley, widow, her daughter-in-law, and to Grace, the daughter of the said Jane, £20, and after bequests to the poor of Roude and Chippenham, she leaves all the rest of her property to Robert Wrottesley, "my nephew (*sic*), the sonne and heyre of John Wrottesley, my sonne."²

Robert Wrottesley died in 1608, and probate of his will was granted in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 30th of September in the same year. His will describes him as Robert Wrottesley, gentleman, of Chippenham, and contains the following bequests:—

To the Parish Church of Chippenham, £10 for a new bell. To my cousin, Nicholas Smyth, son of Philip Smyth, £5. To Thomas Long, son of Henry Long, £5. To Robert Long, son of the said Thomas, £5. To my cousin, Gabriel Gouldney, son of Gabriel Gouldney, £5. To my cousin, Hugh Wrottesley, £5. To the Parish Church of Rowde, £4. To the poor of Chippenham, £5. To Elizabeth Wrottesley, my mother, all my messuage, tenements, etc., called the Bell, in Chippenham, with remainder to John, son of Anne Woodland, of Notton, co. Wilts. He mentions in the will that he had mortgaged divers lands in the parish of Estbrent, co. Somerset, called Wingods, to Gabriel Gouldney the elder for forty years; and he had also mortgaged his lands in Chippenham to Gabriel Gouldney and Hugh Barrett³ (my kinsman), and he directs that the above lands should be sold to pay his debts. His mother Elizabeth was appointed executrix and residuary legatee, the overseers of the will to be Henry Long, of Southweeke, gentleman; Thomas Atkins, of Chippenham, gentⁿ; Richard Sherfield, of Tidworthe, co. Wilts, gentleman, and Henry Sherfield, brother of the said Richard.

¹ *Ex inf.* Mr. F. H. T. Jervoise, of Britford and Herriard. An account of this family will be found in vol. iii of the "Ancestor," October 1902.

² From Mr. Jervoise's deeds. In the will she styles herself "Joane Wrottesley of the Parish of Chippenham in the countey of Wilts wydowe."

³ The Visitation of co. Wilts of 1623 states that Thomas Barrett, of Titherton Lucas, co. Wilts, married Jane, the daughter of Edward Wrottesley, of Rowde, co. Wilts. On referring back to the will of William Wrottesley, of Reading, it will be seen that he left a son Edward, and we have, therefore, a link between this William Wrottesley and the Wrottesleys of Chippenham and Rowde.

It is difficult to reconcile the above evidence, except upon the assumption that Joan Wrottesley who died in 1593 was identical with the Joan Wingod of the deed of 1561, and with Joan Wrottesley of the suit of 1601. In this case she must have dropt her name of Wingod after the death of her second husband, and re-assumed the name of her first husband. Instances of this are to be found on the Rolls, as in the case of Katherine, the widow of Sir William Wrottesley, temp. Edward II. It is evident that the Robert Wrottesley, who died in 1608 was identical with the plaintiff in the suit of 1601, as he is found dealing with the estate called Wingods.

It would appear by the will of Robert Wrottesley, above quoted, that he left no legitimate issue, but he was succeeded by a John Wrottesley who must be identical with the John, the son of Anne Woodland mentioned in his will, who was his illegitimate son. Amongst the Herriard muniments is a deed of Robert Wrottesley of Chippenham, dated 25th March 5 James I (1608), by which he was bound in a sum of £30 to Henry Sherfield, of Lincoln's Inn, gentleman, for the payment of 16d. per week to Anne Woodland, daughter of Richard Woodland, of Notton, in the parish of Lacoche, co. Wilts, for the maintenance of John, supposed to be begotten by the said Robert, until he shall attain the age of thirteen years.

Amongst the same muniments there is a copy of a will of John Wrottesley, of Chippenham, dated 16th March 22 James I (1624-25), in which he bequeaths "to Anne, my loving mother, now the wife of Richard Osgood, the sum of £60, to my brother Richard £30. To my loving aunt Elizabeth Gale, the wife of John Gale, £20. To my loving and kind uncle Henry Sherfield, Esq., to whom I am much bound for his love and favour, £40. To my loving cousin Matilda, daughter of the said Henry, £20. To my loving uncle Robert Woodland, gentleman, £20," and the residue of his estate "to the said Henry Sherfield."

This will must have been made when the testator was under age, for by a deed poll dated 6th April 1625, John Wrottesley covenants that whereas Henry Sherfield, his uncle, has in his hands by a decree of the Court of Chancery, certain money on which he pays no interest, according to the decree, until he (John Wrottesley) attains twenty-one years, and has hitherto given him an allowance for maintenance, schooling, etc., now he John Wrottesley proposes for his further advancement to go to Oxford, and promises that whatever charges Henry Sherfield¹ pays for his main-

Henry Sherfield was Recorder of Salisbury. His trial for sacrilege will be found among the State Trials. *Ex inf.* Mr. F. H. T. Jervoise, of Britford.

tenance there, shall be deducted from the principal sum of money payable to him on his full age. Signed "John Wrottesley."

Beyond this point I cannot carry the pedigree. It will be noted that there is a weak point in it, inasmuch as, although the epochs correspond, there is nothing to establish the identity of Robert Wrottesley, of Chippenham, with Robert Wrottesley, the son of William Wrottesley, of Reading.

According to Mr. Jervoise's deeds, one Henry Wrottesley was living at Britford, near Salisbury, in 1546. He occurs as a juror in the Britford Manor Rolls in the years 1546, 1549, and 1553, and amongst the same deeds there is a copy of Court Roll (Britford Manor) which states that on the 30th of March 1570, Richard Love came into Court and received a messuage and lands, "*habendum prefato Ricardo, Henrico Wrasley et Thome Wrasley filiis Thome Wrasley senioris pro termino vite eorum et cujuslibet eorum diuturnus viventis.*"

I conclude that this Thomas Wrottesley, the elder, was identical with Thomas, the son of Richard Wrottesley, named on page 255, and the following suits and deeds shew that Thomas, the younger, had two sons, George and John.

Decrees of Court of Wards and Liveries, Michaelmas Term,
32-33 Elizabeth (November 1590).

Thomas Gervoy, Esq., of Northfield and Weoley, co. Worcester, on his marriage with Cecily, now wife of George Wrottesley, gentleman, had settled on himself and his wife, by Fine and Indenture dated 7th February 15th Elizabeth, the manors of Northfield and Weoley, co. Worcester, and the manor of Walkringham, co. Notts, a virgate of land in Chelmarsh, co. Salop, and other lands and tenements, with remainder to the heirs of the body of Thomas. Thomas died in 30 Elizabeth, leaving a son Thomas, one year old. The Queen, by Letters Patent of 31 Elizabeth, granted the custody of the manor of Walkringham and the wardship of the heir to Rowland Lacon and Francis Newport, during the minority of the heir.

George Wrottesley and Cecily asked to be recompensed for the loss of Walkringham, and a decree was made by which the manor of Badcote, co. Worcester, and lands and rents in Sturbridge and Ould Swinford, co. Worcester, land in Britford, co. Wilts, and a messuage in St. Mary Bowe, in London, and the manor of Quatt, co. Salop, of which Thomas Gervoy, the father, had died sole seised, should be handed over to George and Cecily for that purpose.

By another decree of the same Court, made at Michaelmas Term 37-38 Elizabeth (November 1595), it appeared that Cecily had died in the previous July, and the custody of the manors of Northfield and Weoley, was granted by the Court to George Wrottesley, for which he was to render £106 2s. 0d. annually (at which value they had been assessed) during the minority of the heir, Thomas Gervois.

Another decree of the same Court was delivered at Easter Term 43 Elizabeth (1600), which states that George Wrottesley, gentleman, had the wardship of Thomas Gervis, Esq., son and heir of Thomas Gervis, Esq., under Patent of Great Seal (the wardship had been granted to Rowland Lacon, Esq., and Francis Newport,¹ Esq., and subsequently conveyed to George Wrottesley, who was now Committee of the said ward); Sir Richard Pawlett, Kt., with his wife and others, the defendants, had entered into a combination to eloinde the said ward. The defendants in their reply stated that the said ward of his own free will could petition the Master of the Court of Wards. Afterwards an agreement was brought into Court by which George Wrottesley for a sum of £1,100, should assign the wardship and marriage of the said ward to Sir Richard Pawlett, Kt., but the Court considering that small advantage to George Wrottesley, decreed that the ward at full age should sue out livery of his lands and become bound to George Wrottesley for the £1,100, with a condition to make estate of the mansion place of Britford, co. Wilts, late in the occupation of Thomas Wrottesley, gentleman, father of the said George, and Elizabeth Russell, or their assigns, unto the said George Wrottesley, the said George to have a lease of twenty-one years under the same covenants as let to Giles Estcourt, of New Sarum, and Thomas Wrottesley, father of the said George.²

The following information has been supplied by F. H. T. Jervoise, Esq. :—

“Thomas Jervois died in 1588. From his marriage settlement with Cecily Ridley it appeared that he had inherited Northfield, Weoley, Chelmarsh and Walkeringham from his father, and these were settled in 15 Elizabeth on himself and his wife, the trustees being Sir George Blunt and Thomas Ridley, of Bowlde. Many papers relating to Sir George Wrottesley and his correspondence with Henry Sherfield, the Recorder of Salisbury, are now at Herriard.

¹ Francis Newport, afterwards Sir Francis, was Sheriff of co. Salop 1586 and 1600. He was knighted on 21st April 1603, and married Beatrice, daughter of Rowland Lacon, of Willey and Kinlet, and by her had issue Richard, afterwards Lord Newport, and other children.

² These decrees of the Court were considered test cases, and are given in Moore's Reports, viz., Gervoyse's case, p. 717, and Wrottesley's case, p. 721.

"In a suit in the Court of Wards and Liveries, temp. James I (Sir Thomas Hesketh, Attorney-General, *versus* Sir George Wrottesley), in the matter of Thomas, Jane and Winifred Gervys, it was stated that Thomas Gervys died in 1588 intestate, and administration of his effects was granted to Cecily, his widow, who afterwards remarried Sir George Wrottesley. By Letters Patent of 31 Elizabeth (1589), the Queen granted the wardship of the heir, Thomas Gervys, to Rowland Lacon and Francis Newport. The latter afterwards assigned his interest to Thomas Lawley, Esq. Rowland Lacon and Thomas Lawley assigned the wardship of the heir and lands without licence to George Wrottesley.

"Sir Richard Poulett had paid £1,100 for the marriage of the ward, and the assignment of the wardship and marriage in 43 Elizabeth to him was said to have been of great benefit to the ward, and the latter was subsequently married to Lucy, the daughter of Sir Richard. In 43 Elizabeth the ward was aged fourteen, and Lucy was somewhat younger. On the death of Cecily in 1595, Sir George Wrottesley applied to Lord Burghley for a lease of the jointure lands during the minority of the heir, for which he paid £100. This was granted to him, it was supposed, for the education of the daughters. John Wrottesley, the brother of Sir George, afterwards married Jane, one of the ward's sisters, and Winifred, the other sister, followed her brother Thomas to Sir Richard Poulett's home."¹

George Wrottesley was one of the first Knights made by James I, and in the same year he purchased the manor of Badminton, co. Gloucester. Amongst the Fines of co. Gloucester, of Michaelmas 1 James I (1603), there is one by which the manor of Badminton was settled on Sir George Wrottesley and his heirs, for which Sir George paid £600. The vendors were William Weare and Edith, his wife.

In 1607, amongst the State Papers, there is a complaint lodged against him by the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury, for wrongs committed by him in the matter of the presentation to the church of Barford. He appears to have kept a steady look-out for well endowed widows, for he married shortly after the death of Cecily Jervoy, Katherine, the daughter of Sir John White, of Farnham, co. Surrey, a very rich citizen of London. Sir John had been Sheriff of London in 1556 and Mayor in 1563. He died at Aldershot in 1573.² Katherine had had two husbands before she married Sir George. Her first husband was William Harding, of Wyke, near Worplesdon, co. Surrey, by whom she had a daughter Mary, married to Sir Robert Gorges, of Worplesdon; her second husband was Sir David Woodroffe, Kt.,³ son of Sir

¹ *Ex inf.* Mr. F. H. T. Jervoise, of Britford.

² "History of Surrey," by Manning and Bray.

³ A contemporary paper on the Offley family, temp. James I, printed in

Nicholas Woodroffe, formerly Mayor of London. Sir George Wrottesley must have been married to her before 1625, for in that year he was a Commissioner regarding the validity of a grant of property in Farnham for charitable uses,¹ and in the same year an information was laid against him and Katherine his wife for the ravishment of Thomas White, the King's ward, who had been married to Elizabeth Woodroffe, daughter of the said Katherine.

The hearing took place on the 12th of February 22 James I in the Court of Wards and Liveries on an information laid by Sir John Hall, Kt., and Dame Dorothy his wife, the Committees of Thomas White, His Majesty's late ward, when it was ordered that Sir George Wrottesley should pay the sum of £1,083 6s. 8d., viz., £541 13s. 4d. on the February next ensuing and £541 13s. 4d. on the 2nd November, Sir Thomas Jervoise² to be his surety for the performance of the decree, and the money to be applied for the benefit of the younger brother of the ward.

Apparently there was some difficulty in extracting the money from Sir George, for a final decree was made at Trinity Term, 8 Charles I (1632), i.e., nine years after the date of the first information, that the said Sir George Wrottesley shall, in performance of the said decree, pay unto Henry White, on the first day of Michaelmas term next at the Font Stone in the Temple Church, the sum of £1,083 6s. 8d. of lawful English money in full performance of the decree aforesaid.

After his marriage with Katherine Woodroffe Sir George appears to have been a person of considerable local importance and is mentioned frequently in the State Papers of the reign of James I. Administration of his goods was granted to Dame Katherine, his relict, on the 25th of March 1636.³ In these

The Genealogist for July 1902, gives the following description of the Woodroffes: "Now touching the Daughters of this Alderman (Stephen Kirton) by Margrett, his wife, one of the Daughters of old Wm. Offley; the eldest of them was married to Sr Nicholas Woodroffe sometime Maior of London, who after leaving the City and giving up his Cloake (as the tearme is) had a goodly house and estate in Hampshire about thirty miles from London, where hee and his Lady the Daughter of Mrs. Kerton dyed and left behind them sons and Daughters. His eldest sone Sir David Woodroffe, Kt. who married one of the Daughters of Sir John White, Kt. sister to Mrs. Offley who was wife to Henry Offley, esq^r and mother to Sir John Offley; this David Woodroffe, Kt. dyed, whose widow was married to Sir George Wrottesley, Kt."

¹ State Papers, printed, Rolls Series.

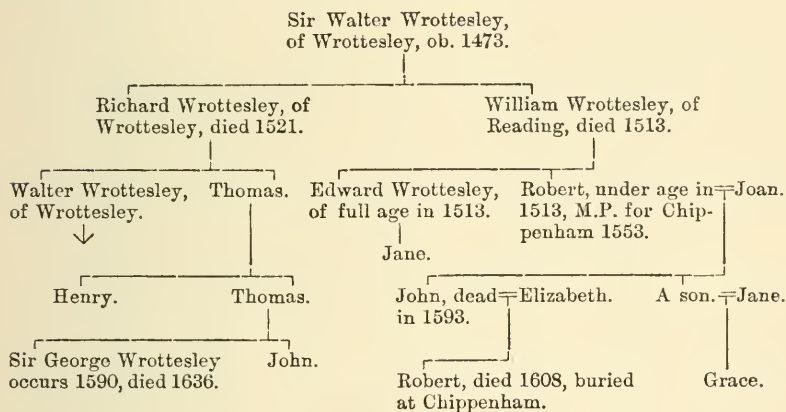
² Sir Thomas Jervoise, the ward of Sir George Wrottesley, was a man of note during the Civil War. He was M.P. for Whitechurch (Hants) during the reign of James I and Charles I, and Colonel of a Regiment of Dragoons on the side of the Parliament. For an account of him see the "Ancestor" for October, 1902, page 3, which contains also his portrait, and the portrait of Lucy Poulett.

³ Administration Act Book, fol. 65, P.C.C.

letters he is described as Sir George Wrottesley, Knight, late of Guildford, Surrey.

"The History of Surrey," by Manning and Bray, states he left a son by Katherine White, who died young, and the deeds at Herriard appear to shew that Elizabeth, wife of Richard Orchard, was the right heir of Sir George Wrottesley.¹

The pedigree of these younger branches would therefore appear to be as follows :—



The Visitation of co. Wilts of 1623 states that Thomas Barrett, of Titherton Lucas, co. Wilts, married Jane, the daughter of Edward Wrottesley, of Rowde, co. Wilts, but as usual with Visitations, gives no date.

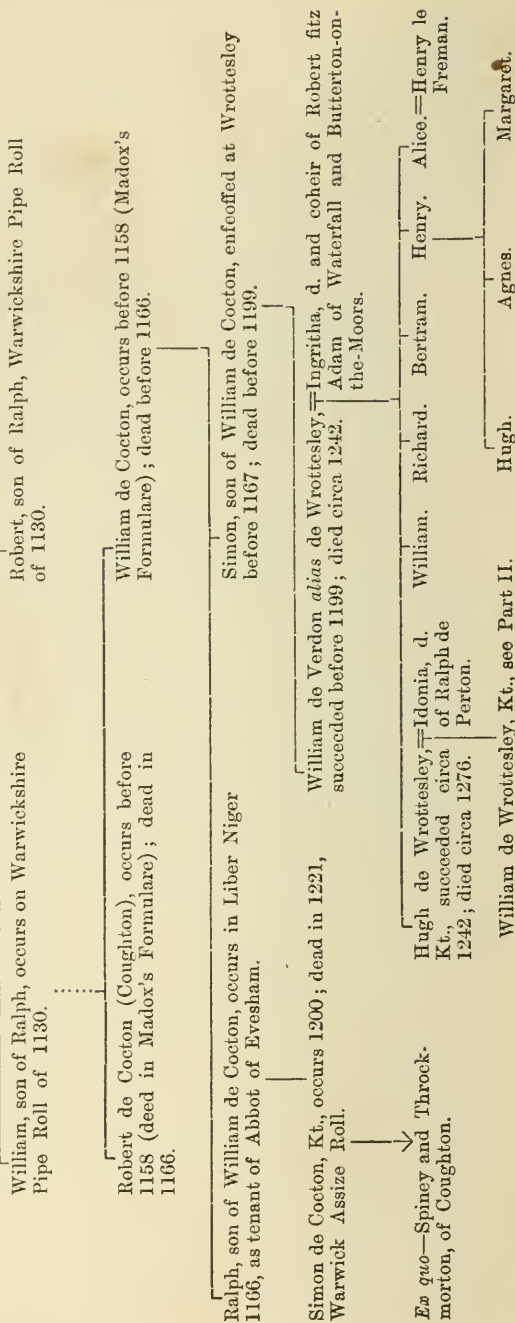
Mistress Elizabeth Wrottesley was buried at Chippenham 29th May 1614 (Chippenham Register).

¹ *See inf.* F. H. T. Jervoise, Esq., Herriard Park, Basingstoke.

Pedigree of Wrottesley, Co. Stafford.

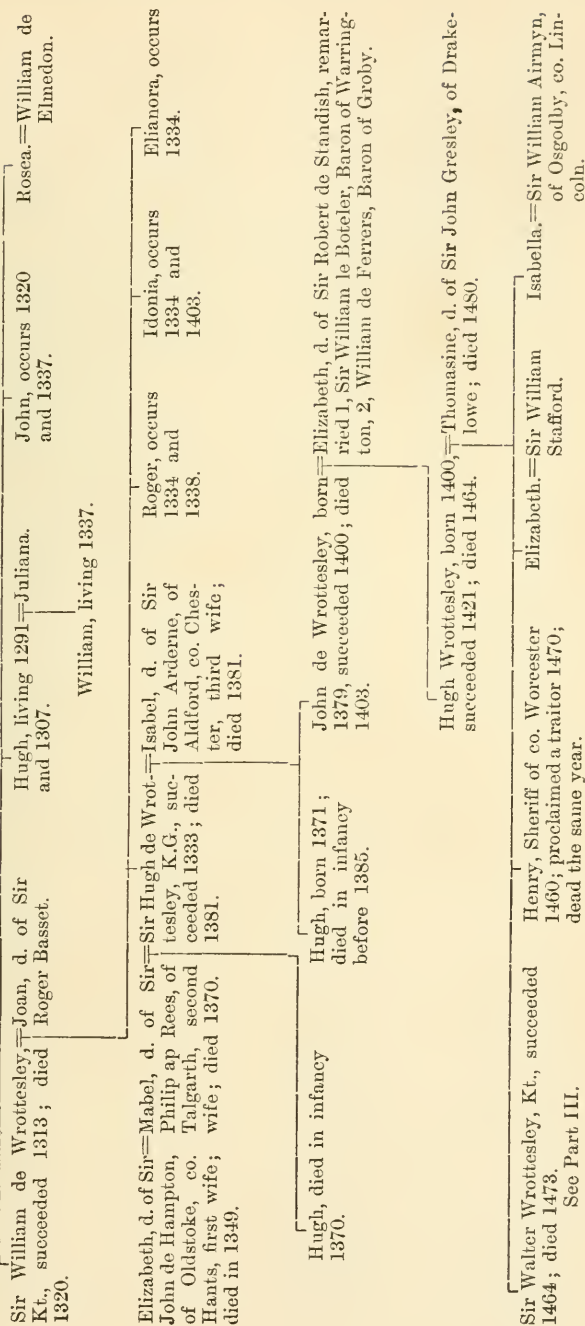
PART I.

Ralph, the brother of Walter, Abbot of Evesham, occurs 1085, also in Domesday Book as tenant of the Abbot at Kinewarton, Morton, Stoke and other places; dead before 1130.

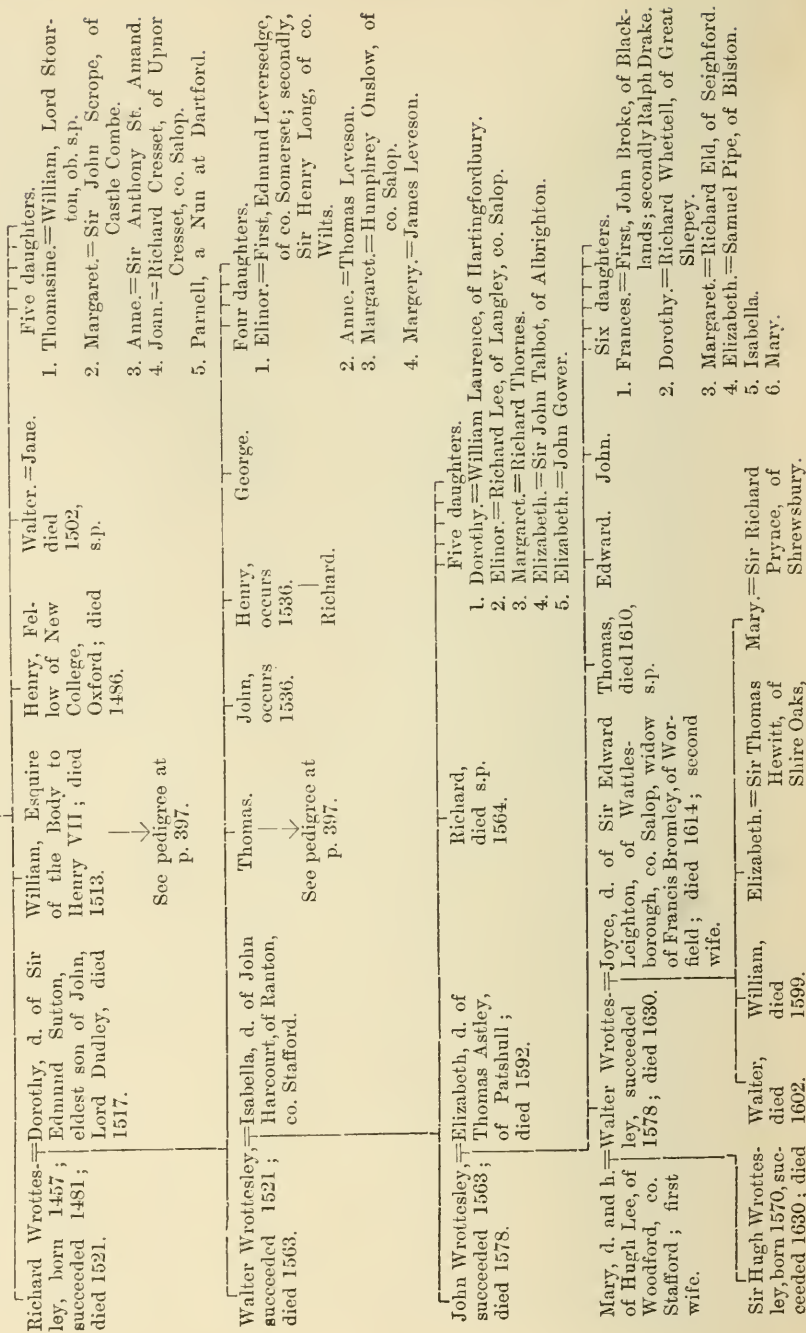


PART II.

Petronilla, d. of Sir John de Sir William de Wroottesley, Kt., =Karine, d. of John Lestrangle, Baron of Knockin and Audley, of Blore.
(First wife.) succeeded before 1279, died 1313. widow of Sir Alan de Glaseley.
(Second wife.)



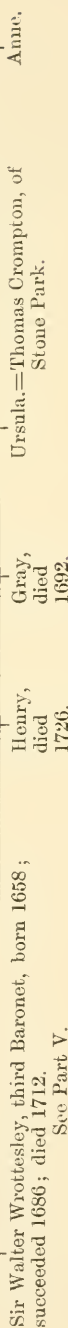
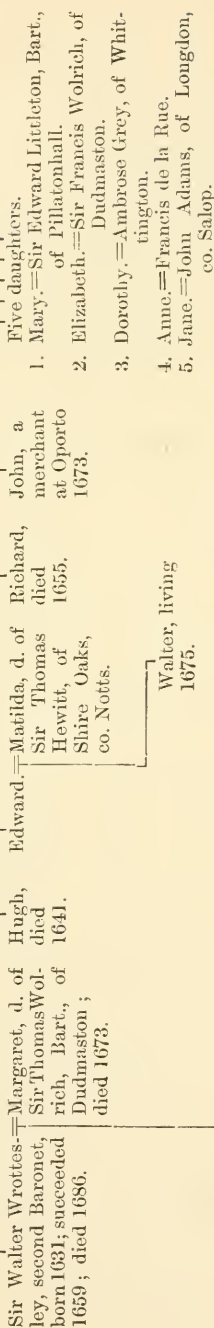
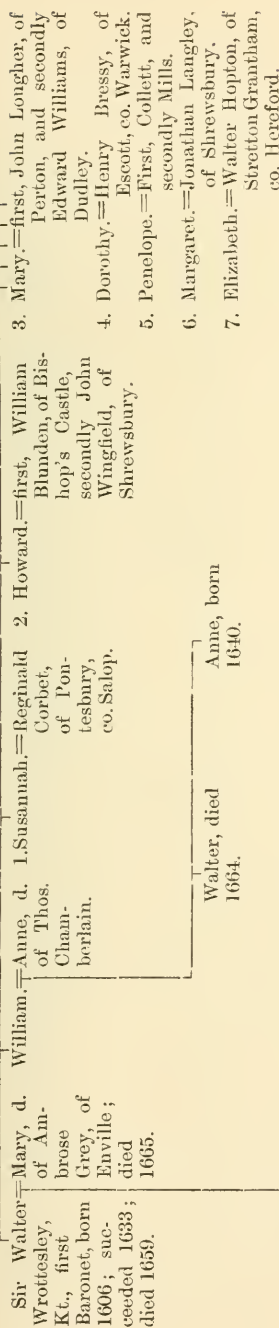
Sir Walter Wrottesley, Kt., succeeded 1464; died 1473. = Jane, d. and h. of William Baron, of Reading, one of the Tellers of the Exchequer.



See Part IV.

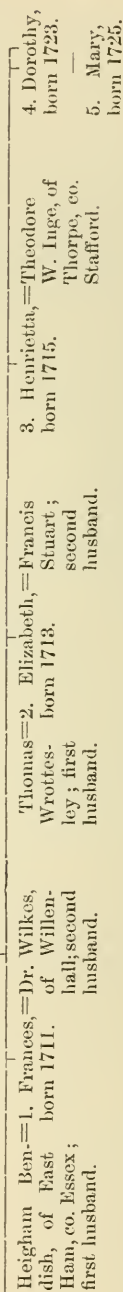
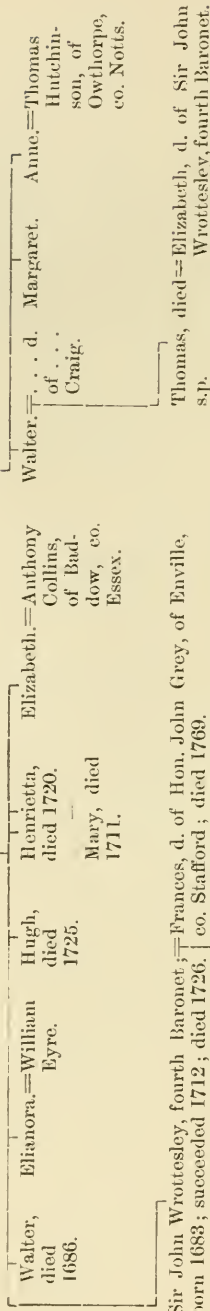
PART IV.

Margaret, d. of Sir Edward Deveroux = Sir Hugh Wrottesley, Kt., born = Clara, d. of Sir Anthony Coleclough, of Tintem of Castle Bromwich; first wife; died 1570; succeeded 1630; died 1633. Abbey, co. Wexford, widow of William Sneyd, of Keele, co. Stafford; died 1621.

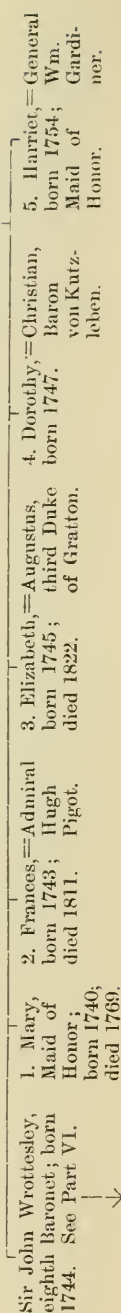


PART V.

Elianora, d. of Sir John Archer, of Sir Walter Wrottesley, third Baronet; Anne, d. of Mr. Justice Burton, of Coopersall, co. Essex; first wife; died 1694. born 1658; succeeded 1686; died 1732.

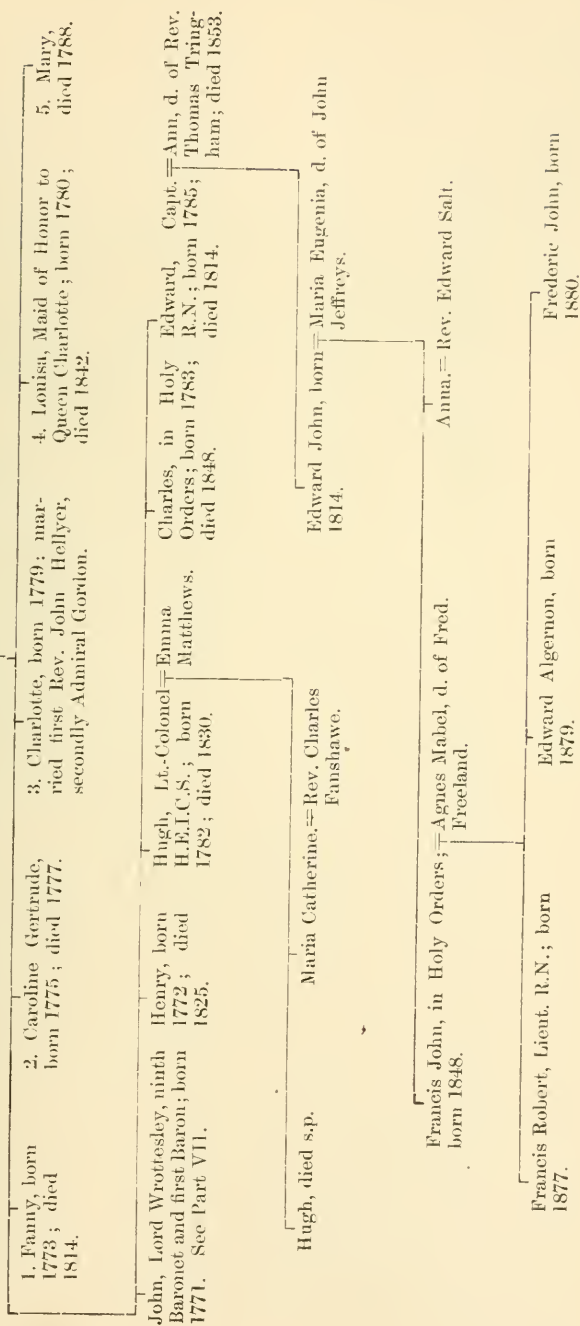


1. John, died 1723. 2. Charles, died 1724. 3. Sir Hugh Wrottesley, fifth Baronet; died 1729, under age. 4. Sir Walker Wrottesley, sixth Baronet; died 1732, under age. 5. Sir Richard Wrottesley, = Lady Mary, d. of John, seventh Baronet; born 1721; first Earl Gower; died succeeded 1742; died 1769. 1778.



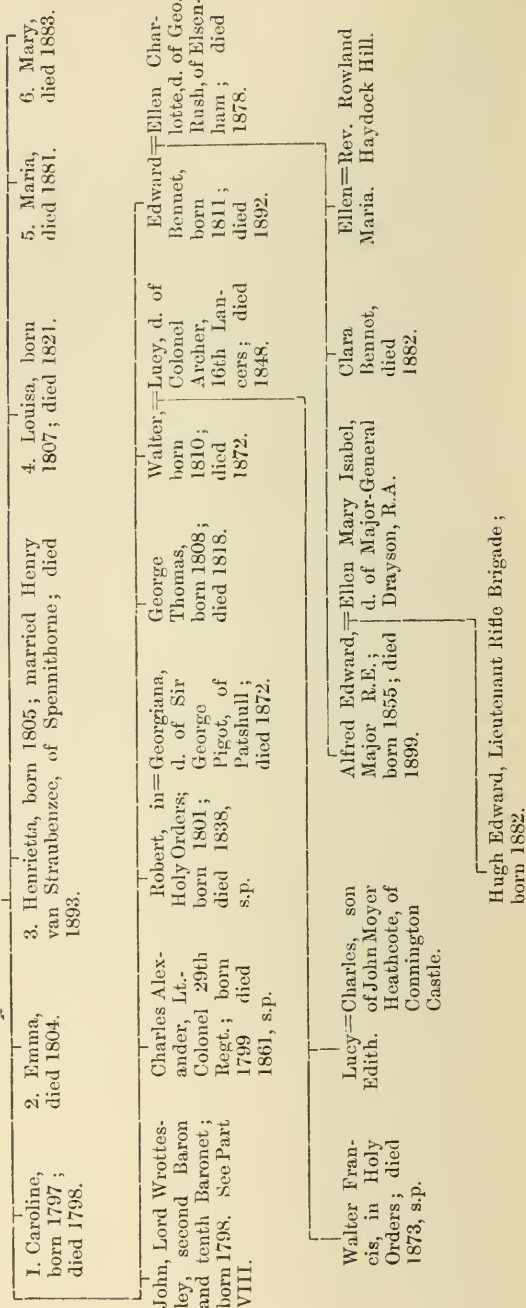
PART VI.

Sir John Wrottesley, eighth Baronet; born 1744; $\overline{\text{---}}$ Hon. Frances, d. of William, Viscount Courtenay; succeeded 1769; died 1787.
— died 1828.



PART VII.

Lady Caroline, d. of fourth=John, Lord Wrotesley, ninth Baronet,=Julia, d. of John Conyers and widow Earl of Tankerville; died and first Baron; born 1771; succeeded of Hon. John Astley Bennet, R.N.; 1818; first wife. 1792; died 1841. second wife; died 1860.



PART VIII.

John, Lord Wrottesley, second Baron, and tenth Baronet; = Sophia Elizabeth, d. of Thomas Giffard, of born 1798; succeeded 1841; died 1867. Chillington; died 1880.

Arthur, Lord = Augusta Wrottesley, third Baron and eleventh Baronet; born 1824; succeeded 1867.	Elizabeth, d. of Albert, Lord Londesborough; died 1887.	Charles, Fellow of All Souls; born 1826.	Margaret Anne, = George, Major-General; born 1827.	Nina Margaret, d. of John W. Philips, of Heybridge, co. Staff-ord; second wife.	Henry, Lt. 43rd Regt.; born 1829; died 1852.	Cameron, Lt. R.E.; born 1829; died 1854.	Julia, born 1822; died 1835.	Caroline, = Edward W. Goodlake, born 1832; died 1860.
	William, Captain 4th Dragoon Guards; born 1868; died 1899.	Bertram Francis, born 1864; died 1875.	Victor Alexander, born 1873.	Walter Bennet, born 1877.	Henrietta Evelyn, born 1866.			

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA.

- p. 32, line 22. An explanation of the circumstance that the Sheriff of the County was collecting the scutage from the sub-tenants of the Stafford Barony in this year, is afforded by an entry in the Pipe Roll of 3 H. 3, which shows that this was done at the request of Hervey Bagot and Millicent de Stafford, his mother. The entry in the Roll is as follows :—
- Milisent de Stafford and Hervey, her son, give £15 to be quit of all arrears of the scutages of King John of the fee of Hervey Baghot, the husband of Milisent, so that the King may receive all the arrears by hands of his bailiffs from those who had not paid or made fine for them.
- p. 53, line 27, for “£20,” read “£80.”
- p. 216, line 26, for “Emma,” read “Anne.”
- p. 229, *Sir Walter Wrottesley and the King Maker.*
- Richard, Earl of Warwick, derived his wealth from his great English estates, consisting of the Honors of Clare, Gloucester, Despencer, and Warwick; but his political power arose from his command of the garrison of Calais, and his possession of the great Honor of Glamorgan and the land of Morgan in Wales, and it will be noted that at the most critical period of his fortunes, in 1470 and 1471, when he had determined to dethrone Edward IV, he placed both these great posts successively in charge of Sir Walter Wrottesley.
- The possession of Glamorgan and Morgannok had always enabled its ancient lords, the Earls of Clare and Gloucester, to take up a position independent of the Crown, and the King Maker had succeeded to all the prerogatives of its former Norman lords.
- Mr. George Clark, in his account of the “Land of Morgan,” says there could not be a more complete “*imperium in imperio*” than the sway of the lords of Glamorgan. The “Comitatus” was a Court of Chancery and Record, composed of the lords, principal tenants, or *barones Comitatus*, presided over by the Vice Comes or Sheriff, from the decision of which there lay no appeal to the Crown.
- p. 246. At Easter term, 22 E. 4, John Stanley, of Elford, sued Richard Wrottesley, of Wrottesley, armiger, and Robert Legh, of Adlyngton, co. Chester, armiger, for fabricating a false deed of feoffment at Lichfield, relating to the plaintiff's manors of Echeles, Aldeford, and Nether Alderley, and 80 acres of land in Echeles, Aldeford and Nether Alderley, in co. Chester, with a view of disturbing and destroying his title and possession of the said manors and land. For an account of this suit see pp. 140 and 142 of *Staffordshire Collections*, vol. vi. New Series.
- p. 256, line 19. George Wrottesley was *grandson*, not son, of the Thomas Wrottesley named here. His father was also named Thomas. See p. 392.
- pp. 257, 400. The daughter of Richard Wrottesley, who married James Leveson, was named Alice, and not Margery or Margaret. She was his first wife, and mother of his three sons, Sir Richard Leveson, Walter Leveson and Edward Leveson, of Perton. See a note to the Pedigree of Otley, printed in *The Genealogist*, New Series, vol. xix. (April, 1903.)
- p. 273. Matthew Wrottesley was a deponent in a Chancery suit (*Harcourt versus Bekyngham*) in 1558, when his age was stated to be forty-two.

- p. 332, line 21, *omit* "Thomas Coyney of Weston Coyney," for he took up arms for the King, as shewn on p. 331.
- p. 335. The will of Dame Mary Wrottesley was proved in 1665 on the oath of Dorothy Wrottesley, daughter and executrix named in the will, as follows:—
 "The will of Dame Mary Wrottesley declared to her sonne Walter Wrottesley and Thomas Greene 29 Dec. 1662. First she gives and bequeaths to Dorothy Wrottesley one hundred and fifty pounds. To Ann Wrottesley one hundred and forty. To James Wrottesley two hundred pounds. To John Wrottesley fiftie pounds, and did then nominate and appoynt Dorothy Wrottesley to be her executrix by this her last will. Signed Walter Wrottesley and Thomas Greene." Prerogative Court of Canterbury (21 Hyde).
- p. 338, *for* "Magdalen College, Oxford," *read* "Magdalen Hall, now Hertford College."
- p. 340, *note*. The date on the Hopper Head of the rain water pipes was 1689, *not* 1698, as stated in the note.
- p. 343. A search amongst the Registers of Theydon Garnon Church shews that Sir John Wrottesley, the fourth Baronet, was born in 1683. The Register states that John, the son of Walter Wrotchlay (*sic*), Esq., and Elianour his wife, of Theydon Garnon, was born 28th July and baptized 2nd August 1683.
- p. 353, line 7 from bottom of page, *for* "the Baron," *read* "Baron William de Kutzleben."

The following additional particulars of the descendants of the Baron von Kutzleben and Dorothy Wrottesley have been furnished by Mrs. Curtis, his granddaughter:—

The Baron Christian von Kutzleben and Dorothy had issue—

1. William Baron von Kutzleben born in 1785, Lt.-Colonel of the 44th Regiment of Madras Infantry; he died in 1836.
2. Gertrude Philippiue married Mr. W. King, by whom she had two children, Gertrude and Charles.
3. Charles von Kutzleben, of the 69th Foot, who died young in India and left no issue.

William Baron von Kutzleben was twice married. By his first wife, Susanna, whose maiden name is not known, he had issue—

1. Gertrude, born 1815, died 1845.
2. William Fitz Roy, born 1816, died 1817 an infant.
3. Emma, born 1820, died 1872.

By his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Knipe, Esq., of St. Helena, and widow of William Lambe, Esq., he had issue—

1. Elizabeth, born 1830.
2. Louisa, died an infant 1834.
3. Matilda Catherine Alice, born 1835.

The eldest daughter Gertrude, by the first wife, married Mr. Edward Collins, and had issue by him—

1. Edward, born 1836.
2. Anne, born 1838.
3. Susau, born 1839; and two sons:

Robert and Thomas, both of whom died in India of cholera whilst under age.

The second daughter, Emma, was born in 1820 and died in 1872. Her husband, Captain Ralph Leicester, was killed in India in 1859 and left no issue.

Elizabeth von Kutzleben, the eldest daughter by the Baron's second wife, was born in 1830, and married Mr. Moreton J. Walhouse, of the Indian Civil Service, by whom she had issue—

1. Hervey James, born 1851.
2. Helen Elizabeth, born 1853.
3. Moreton Edward, born 1855.
4. Charles Herbert de Kutzleben, 64th Staffordshire Regiment, born 1857, died 11 Nov. 1895.
5. Alice, born 1860, died 1872.

Louisa von Kutzleben, the second daughter, was born in 1832 and died in 1834.

The third daughter, Matilda Catherine Alicia von Kutzleben, was born in 1835 and married John Robert Lloyd Curtis, of the 8th Regiment Madras Army, by whom she had issue—

Elizabeth Harriet, born 1859, now living in London in charge of one of the Queen's Nursing Homes.

Caroline and William Lloyd, both of whom died young.

- p. 354. Harriet, the youngest daughter of Sir Richard Wrottesley, likewise figures in the Walpole correspondence. In a letter to the Countess of Upper Ossory of 31st April 1773, Horace Walpole describes a festival and fancy dress ball at Lord Stanley's, at which he had been present. He says "the Seasons danced by himself (*i.e.*, Lord Stanley), the younger Storer, the Duc de Lauzun and another, the youngest Miss Stanley, Miss Poole, the youngest Wrottesley, and another Miss, who is likewise anonymous in my memory, were in errant shepherdly dresses without invention, and Storer and Miss Wrottesley in banians with furs for winter, cock and hen."
- p. 355. In the quotation from George Selwyn's letters, the words "to the Duke his brother," *should read* "to the Dukes his brothers." These were the Dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland, the first of whom lived at Gloucester House (now Grosvenor House) and the latter at Leicester House. Ex. inf: Colonel W. F. Prideaux, who also informs me in reference to the footnote on this page, that the Princess of Wales had left Leicester House in 1766 for Carlton House (which had also belonged to her late husband), but she resided principally at Kew, where she was probably living when the news of her son's death would have reached England.
- p. 361, line 21, for "blank," *read* "black."
- p. 362. Lt.-Colonel Hugh Wrottesley died 18th October 1830.
- p. 363. Edward Wrottesley was married to Ann Tringham at Gibraltar, by licence granted by His Excellency Lt. Governor Campbell, at the King's Chapel, Gibraltar, on the 1st of November 1812, in presence of Percy Fraser, Commissioner of H.M. Navy; J. J. Pechell, Captain H.M.S. "Cleopatra"; Martha Tringham, and others, the officiating minister being the Rev. Thomas Tringham, H.M. Chaplain, the father of the bride.
- p. 366. At the period of the emigration of the French nobility owing to the revolution of 1792, Wrottesley, like many of the other large country houses, sheltered one of the emigrés. A Vicomte de Mauny, under the guise of a French tutor, lived there for several years.
- p. 377. The "Rugby School Register" (printed) contains the following entries under the name of Wrottesley:—

Entrances in 1699.

Wrottesley, John, eldest son of Sir Walter Wrottesley, Bart., Somerford, Staffordshire.

Wrottesley, Hugh, second son of the above.

Entrances in 1702.

Wrottesley, Walter, third son of Sir Walter Wrottesley, Bart., Somerford, Staffordshire.

Entrances in 1722.

Wrottesley, Hugh, second son of Sir John Wrottesley, Bart., M.P. for Staffordshire.

Wrottesley, Walter, third son of Sir John Wrottesley.

Entrances in August, 1838.

Wrottesley, Arthur, son of the Hon. John Wrottesley (now Lord Wrottesley), Blackheath, Kent, and Wrottesley, Wolverhampton, aged 14, June 17th.

The "Westminster School Register" shews that

Wrottesley, John, was admitted 31st Jan. 1782.

Wrottesley, Henry, admitted 1782, left 1791; King's Scholar and Captain.

Wrottesley, John, admitted 22nd Jan. 1810, left 1814.

Wrottesley, Charles Alexander, admitted 22nd Jan. 1810, left 1810.

Wrottesley, Robert, admitted 25th May 1812, left 15th June 1818.

Wrottesley, Walter, admitted 17th Jan. 1821, left Bartholomewtide 1827.

Wrottesley, Edward Bennet, admitted 18th Jan. 1822, King's Scholar 1826, elected to Trinity College, Cambridge, but went to New Inn Hall; matriculated 7th February 1833.

Wrottesley, Edward John, admitted 1825, King's Scholar 1829, left 1833.

p. 379, line 33, for "Committee" read "Council."

p. 382. After the death of John, the second Baron Wrottesley, his widow, Sophia, Lady Wrottesley, took up her abode at the Dower House of the family at Oaken, and died there in 1880.

p. 384, line 10 and footnote. The words for visual signals" should be added to the sentence, for Morse's alphabet was in use on many of the railway telegraphs at this date, and was employed by the Royal Engineers for their electric field telegraph.

The Committee had been formed for the purpose of reporting on Rendl's system of telegraphy by means of collapsible cones. By the use of two of these cones and a large circular ball of black canvas, the inventor was able to produce all the permutations required for the Naval Code of Signals, and he claimed that they would be more visible at a distance than the flags in use. I pointed out that a single cone made to open and shut would suffice if the Morse alphabet was used, and there would be this additional advantage, that the same alphabet could then be used both for visual and electric signals. The Committee recommended that experiments should be made with this object in view, but the Navy would not renounce their signal flags and Naval Code. The result, however, was the introduction of the Morse alphabet for all visual signals on shore, and Lieutenant Colomb afterwards invented the flash light for naval signals at night. The use of the Morse alphabet also led to the introduction of the Heliostad into the service for day signals on shore.

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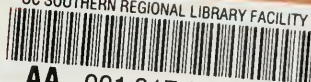


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